

UAE rejects criticism over death sentence for Filipina

Justice Ministry notes verdict subject to appeal and cannot be carried out without president's approval

DUBAI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday rejected the wave of protests triggered by the death penalty issued against a young Filipina maid, saying it was dictated by Islamic law.

The UAE Justice Ministry added, however, that President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan could ultimately prevent the execution of the sentence issued Saturday against Sarah Balabagan after she was found guilty of murdering her employer.

"The UAE implements Islamic Sharia law. What has been said on the sentence issued against Sarah Balabagan is surprising and distorts reality," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official agency WAM.

"The accused has the right to appeal," it added, also pointing out that the "death sentence cannot be executed without the president's approval."

In the meantime defence lawyers can appeal twice: first to the appeal court and then to the Federal High Court, the statement said.

The ministry said Ms. Balabagan was 27 years old and her employer, Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi whom she stabbed to death last year, was 70.

Ms. Balabagan's defence lawyers say she is 16 and her identification papers were forged by the recruiting agent to thwart the Philippines' law against child labour.

Ms. Balabagan said she stabbed her employer in self-defence after he tried to rape her.

But the Islamic court in Al 'Ain, 160 kilometres east of the capital Abu Dhabi, said there was no evidence to back her claim.

The death sentence triggered a wave of angry protest



Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan

in the Philippines and from support groups for overseas workers.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Sazon on Monday said President Fidel Ramos would make a personal plea for clemency if the appeals fail.

Saturday's verdict was delivered at a retrial ordered by Sheikh Zayed who annulled the same court's decision in June to jail her for seven years for manslaughter.

The UAE Justice Ministry did not explain why Sheikh Zayed cancelled the first verdict, which also awarded Ms. Balabagan, \$27,000 in compensation for rape.

Philippines' officials scrambling to save the maid are considering appealing for a presidential pardon, Manila's ambassador said.

Roy Seneres told Reuters the embassy was considering reiterating an earlier appeal by President Ramos to the Sheikh Zayed to pardon Ms. Balabagan.

"We are considering reiterating in writing President Ramos' appeal to Sheikh Zayed for a pardon in the next few weeks," Mr. Seneres said just before calling at the UAE Foreign Minis-

try. "We are also thinking of bringing a senior official from Manila to intercede on Sarah's behalf with officials here. That will probably include Sheikh Zayed."

The verdict stunned Filipinos in the Gulf and at home and prompted Philippine embassy officials to step up diplomatic lobbying to save Ms. Balabagan.

Chief defence lawyer Mohammad Al Amin had planned to file an appeal on Monday but he told Reuters: "I decided to delay the matter so we could have more time to review the verdict."

Outrage at the death penalty imposed on Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim, spread rapidly in the largely Roman Catholic Philippines, still angered by Singapore's execution of a Filipina maid in March.

Philippines officials have appealed for calm and reiterated their belief that justice would prevail in the UAE courts.

"I cannot comment on what will happen if the appeal fails," said Mr. Seneres. "I believe Sarah's innocence will win her freedom."

But some officials and lawyers from the Philippines who have defended Ms. Balabagan in the UAE have said an execution would unleash widespread anger back home.

If the Al 'Ain appeal court maintains the death sentence, the case will go to the Abu Dhabi supreme court. Sheikh Zayed must approve, an execution if the death sentence sticks, sources said.

Philippines officials expect a protracted legal struggle but Ms. Balabagan's chief lawyer said he thought media attention would accelerate the appeal process.



FRANCO-JORDANIAN TIES: Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti confers with his French counterpart Herve de Charette after receiving him upon arrival late Monday for a 24-hour visit (see page 1)

Baghdad invites foreign observers for plebiscite

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will invite thousands of foreign parliamentarians and journalists to observe a referendum reaffirming President Saddam Hussein as the country's leader.

Officials at the Ministry of Culture and Information said on Monday that journalists from all countries except Kuwait and Israel were welcome. Accommodation will be provided free of charge.

"We are ready to receive thousands of journalists," said one official. "We will provide transport from Amman to Baghdad and back to Amman," he added.

Iraqis vote on Oct. 15. President Saddam is the sole candidate.

Earlier, Iraq said it was ready to receive as many as 10,000 foreign observers for the event.

On Monday, Baghdad newspapers said Iraq's parliament will invite parliamentarians from all over the world to attend the referendum — excluding Kuwaitis and Israelis.

The ruling Baath Party organisations are preparing ballot boxes and voting centres in Baghdad. Officials said those eligible to vote will be given a ballot paper with a yes and no box and the voter will be asked to tick one of them.

Ghanim Khadouri, parliamentarian deputy speaker, told the official press on Monday that voters will be free to choose.

But he added: "The National Assembly is confident that the Iraqi people will say... yes to leader Saddam Hussein."

Iraq has made clear that the thousands of foreign delegates and journalists it plans to invite will not be allowed to monitor or interfere in the voting process.

"The target (behind the invitations) will be made clear. It is to observe and not monitor in the sense of interfering in the process of the referendum," said the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya.

Early this month the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) approved amendments to Iraq's interim constitution, among them a provision to elect the president by means of a secret ballot for a seven-year term.

The RCC unanimously re-nominated President Saddam for the post. So did the National Assembly or parliament.

Iraqi officials say the voting will reaffirm and renew allegiance to President Saddam and put to rest the "horror of biased propaganda" abroad.

Vanunu asks for transfer to Italy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician jailed for revealing Israel's atomic secrets, is asking to be returned to Italy, the country where he says he was kidnapped by Israeli agents in 1986, officials said Sunday.

Mr. Vanunu, who is serving an 18-year sentence for treason, on Sunday appeared before a Beersheba court hearing his appeal to end his solitary confinement. The hearing was closed to the media.

His attorney, Avigdor Feldman, said the hearing was "fruitless" and that he would now appeal to the supreme court. He said the court rejected a request that British doctors examine Mr. Vanunu and ruled any further appeals be heard by the supreme court.

A justice ministry spokeswoman, who spoke anonymously, said Mr. Vanunu told the court he would ask the supreme court to order him freed and returned to Italy. The legal basis for such a request was not immediately clear.

In 1986, Mr. Vanunu provided the Sunday Times of London with photos and information indicating Israel had secretly stockpiled nuclear weapons at its Dimona facility. He was captured and brought to Israel, where he was convicted of treason in 1988.

According to reports, Mr. Vanunu was kidnapped by agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service in Rome.

Mr. Vanunu, 38, was seen in public for the first time since his capture as his appeal began two months ago. Despite police efforts to keep him out of sight, the bearded Vanunu was filmed by TV cameras as he was whisked from a van into the courtroom.

"Roma, Italia," the former nuclear technician shouted at reporters as police, holding stretchers aloft, failed to hide him from television cameras as he was bundled from a van into the court building on Sunday.

While being transported in a police van during the 1986 proceedings, Mr. Vanunu flashed a sign written on his hand saying Israeli agents had abducted him in Italy.

Foreign reports said he was hauled to Rome from London by a beautiful Israeli secret agent named Cindy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police detain 5 settlers for 'incitement'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police searched the homes of several Jewish West Bank settlers Monday and detained five on suspicion of incitement and distributing illegal documents, Israel army radio said. Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen confirmed that officers searched homes of settlers linked to the Zu Artzenu group which has staged protests against planned Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. Mr. Bar-Chen said a number of people were detained, but would not say on what grounds. He said searches were conducted in the West Bank settlements of Kiryat Arba, Givat Shimon and Beit El. Zu Artzenu has organised protests against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's plans to withdraw Israeli troops from part of the West Bank Group members have blocked roads, staged sit-ins and scuffled with police in demonstrations in recent weeks. Zu Artzenu said Monday that among those detained were the group's founders, Moshe Feiglin and American-born Shmuel Sack-ett, both of Givat Shimon. "We will continue our struggle until this government falls," Zu Artzenu said.

Israeli army chief escapes Lebanon attack

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Israel sent reinforcements into south Lebanon following a bomb attack which narrowly missed the army chief of staff. Amnon Shahak, security sources said Monday. The army dispatched 11 field guns and two tanks to Marjayoun, its headquarters in the occupied border "security zone," the sources said. General Shahak had just driven by when a road-side bomb exploded on Sunday in the zone, wounding two soldiers. Hizbollah, which claimed the attack, later fired rockets and mortars at two positions held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army in the zone, prompting retaliatory Israeli artillery fire. There was no report of casualties.

Death toll in Turkish blast rises to 5

ANKARA (R) — The death toll from the bombing of a cafe in the Turkish city of Izmir rose to five on Monday after a soldier died of his wounds, hospital officials said. The 20-year-old private was one of 25 people wounded in the explosion on Sunday at a cafe frequented by soldiers on weekend leave in the western city. Another soldier and three civilians were killed immediately. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast. Kurdish separatist and Islamist militants have let off bombs in Turkish cities in the past and armed leftist groups are also active in Izmir. In January, Turkish police arrested a leading Kurdish Labour Party guerrilla who they said was responsible for a string of bombings in Izmir, on the Aegean coast.

Malaysian police bust Iranian ring

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has smashed a fake passport ring, allegedly headed by an Iranian, which was able to duplicate travel papers of at least 18 countries, the Malay Mail reported on Monday. Eleven Iranians, one Japanese and Indonesian, all aged between 20 and 30, were arrested in a two-day operation by police and immigration authorities last week, the evening tabloid said. Among them was the group's alleged mastermind, an Iranian who had been under police scrutiny for nine months. Two of the suspects suffered broken legs after jumping from a third-floor apartment to evade arrest. Fake immigration stamps and passport embossing machines for countries such as Malaysia, Iran, Sweden, Columbia, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, Portugal, Norway, Greece, France, the Netherlands, Thailand, Canada, Indonesia, Venezuela and Switzerland were seized. The Malay Mail described the haul as immigration officials' biggest success because of the variety of items seized.

U.S. should not expand sanctions — Iran paper

NICOSIA (R) — The United States will have its fingers burned if it tries to pressure other countries to join sanctions against Iran, a Tehran newspaper said on Monday. The English-language Tehran Times said in an editorial that Iran "oversees the whole Persian Gulf region which, by virtue of its oil, is the lifeline of the industrial world."

"After (U.S. President Bill) Clinton's trade embargo against Iran, almost all world countries, including Russia, China, Japan and some European nations, have implicitly announced that trade relations with Iran must continue," it said.

"The U.S. has once burnt its fingers, it had better not try again," it added.

The paper was commenting on a planned U.S. Senate hearing on the impact of U.S. sanctions against Iran as well as proposed legislation to penalise all foreign companies, which have

petroleum-related business with Iran.

"It is time the U.S. statesmen recognised Iran's special position in the international arena and respect her values instead of defying it," it said.

"Iran is the gateway to Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is clear that access to the two regions via Iran is the most economical. Hence, any country interested in dealing with these regions has to rely on Iran," the Tehran Times said.

Iran is the second largest oil producer in the 12-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Tehran Times said Iran was the most powerful country in the region and was "the most stable country with top security. It is, therefore, the safest place for foreign investment."

The United States in May banned all U.S. business with Iran for its alleged role in sponsoring terrorism and developing nuclear weapons.

7,000 Palestinian teachers to be trained as self-rule poll officials

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Voter registration classes will start this month for 7,000 Palestinian teachers, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday, a day after Israel and the PLO wrapped up an agreement on holding Palestinian elections.

Under the accord, the Palestinian self-rule council running the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have 62 members. Palestinians will cast one vote for council members and another for the head of the Palestinian Authority, a post now filled by Yasser Arafat.

A date for the elections will be announced by Mr. Arafat once Israel and the PLO sign an overall agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The United States had pushed for a signing ceremony this Thursday, but negotiators remained deadlocked Monday over the fate of the West Bank town of Hebron.

From the date of the signing, Israel will have 100 days to pull its troops out of six West Bank towns in advance of Palestinian elections, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said Monday that Israel made concessions to the PLO on the elections,

in hopes of being repaid with Palestinian flexibility on security issues.

"For them, the most important issue is sovereignty. For us, it's security," Mr. Dromi said. "We made it clear that on security, we cannot compromise."

Israel initially wanted a council of only 20 members, saying it should not be larger than a normal-sized cabinet. The PLO insisted on a 100-member council that is to serve as a national assembly. The council will have some legislative powers.

Israel also made some concessions concerning the participation of the 155,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem in the elections.

Israel initially said the Jerusalem Palestinians could vote, but not run for office. In a compromise, the two sides agreed that Palestinians with homes in both the West Bank and in Jerusalem can run for the council.

Jerusalem residents will cast their ballots by mail, but there will be no polling station in the city.

Disputes over voting procedures in Jerusalem had held up agreement on elections for several months.

Israel wanted to avoid any arrangements that could be seen as undermining its claim to sovereignty over all of the city, including the eastern

sector it seized in the 1967 Mideast war and later "annexed."

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as a future capital. The Palestinians were busy Monday with preparations for the elections even though the 100-day countdown has not yet begun.

On Sept. 30, training courses will begin for 7,000 teachers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trainees will register voters and on election day be posted at the polling stations to help those casting their ballots, said Abdul Nasser Maki, in charge of elections preparations in the West Bank town of Jericho.

He said 1,756 polling stations will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem will be divided into 16 electoral districts.

Mr. Maki said election organisers did not know how many eligible voters there were, saying the population figures handed over by Israel's military government for the West Bank and Gaza were outdated.

The teachers to be trained later this month will go from house to house in towns and villages to register voters. Everyone older than 17 is eligible to vote, Mr. Maki said.

Ali Mahdi threatens to declare war on Aideed

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Ali Mahdi threatened Monday to declare an "all-out war" against his rival Mohammed Farah Aideed who captured the inland town of Baidoa along the south Mogadishu stronghold within 24 hours.

General Aideed led some 600 fighters in a blitzkrieg to take control of the town on Sunday and detained 17 expatriate aid workers there, saying he was putting them in "protective custody."

Travelers arriving in Mogadishu from Baidoa said at least 10 people were killed or wounded during clashes between Gen. Aideed's fighters and a small resistance group from the Rahanweyn sub-clan.

Mr. Ali Mahdi told reporters here that Gen. Aideed would be held responsible for the "catastrophe" that would ensue from his latest attempt to extend his control beyond south Mogadishu.

Reports from Baidoa said

the 17 expatriates were being confined to their offices after their bodyguards were disarmed by Aideed's militia-men who dismantled their radio sets.

The foreigners would be asked to obtain residence permits from Gen. Aideed's interim administration, sources close to the warlord said here.

Gen. Aideed's supporters elected him "interim president" of Somalia in June. He has since dubbed his militia-men Somalia's "national army" and has embarked on a campaign to disarm opponents and establish himself as Somalia's pre-eminent leader.

Mr. Ali Mahdi also claims to be "interim president." Baidoa was reported calm on Monday following sporadic exchanges of fire on Sunday. A rocket propelled grenade exploded at the town's main market.

Militiamen loyal to Aideed erected check points around the town.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 7: 7:30-11:19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 Road to Avonlea
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Les Mondes Engloutis
17:30 Montague
17:50 Varieties — Tatarara
18:00 News in French
19:15 Full Pas Rever
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 You Bet Your Life
20:00 Piquet Files
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Drama — True Blue
21:50 The Detectives
22:00 News in English
22:25 Truck Winch (Part II)
23:30 Glass Virgin
23:59 Grace Under Fire
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
06:17 Sunrise
12:29 Dhuhr
15:29 Asr
18:42 Maghrib
20:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlitz, Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 737440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 638551. Tel. 623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824128
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654012
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811245

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures three degrees below average and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aquila, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Al Azzam 899524
Dr. Shihab Abu Zayid 379622
Dr. Youssef Rachid 896301
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Perdons pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 636472
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shinebani pharmacy 637661
Nairokh pharmacy 636472
Najih pharmacy 647632
IRBID:
Dr. Fawaz Al Qadi 248743
Alquds pharmacy 1-1-1
ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989691
Khaleel pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 630341
Rescue Police 192, 321, 111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846390
Public Security Department 630321
Head Complaints 648903
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reprints 815615
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 648101
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 18-5320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 18-5320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642962
Mathias, J. Amman 636140
Pakistina, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 664131
University Hospital 845645
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661648
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 666100
Arnal Hospital 667155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109983323
Zarqa National Hospital 109900561
Ibn Sina Hospital 109986732
Al Hilana Modern Hospital 109999991
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 021278555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275
The Al Nufies Hospital 1021347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 110314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:05 Damascus (RJ)
06:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 London (RJ)
10:05 Geneva, Brussels (CF)
13:10 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
21:05 London (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:45 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Athens (RJ)
09:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (CF)
13:10 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
21:05 London (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
10:45 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Vienna (OS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600 / 400
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Cabbage 130 / 80
Carrot 420/300
Cauliflower 180/120
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 210 / 150
Eggplant 240 / 150
Figs 320/250
Garlic 600/200
Grapes 750/600
Guava 600/200
Lemon 300/200
Marrow (large) 200 / 120
Marrow (small) 370 / 300
Mushrooms 130 / 80
Okra 650 / 700
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Orange 450/350
Peaches 1000/800
Pepper (hot) 180 / 120
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 150
Pineapple 340/250
Potato 240 / 160
Pricing Beans 620 / 500
Sweet Melon 360 / 280
Tomato 130/80
Water Melon 120 / 70

WHAT'S GOING ON

SWISS CULTURAL WEEK

- * "Sertschawan," and "Journey of Hope," (Arabic subtitles) at 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. respectively at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC)
- * Two photography exhibitions: "Swiss photographers since 1840 until today," and "Face to face with Switzerland," at RCC.

POETRY RECITAL

*By Shahlah Kayali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * "Magdeburg," (English subtitles) at Goethe Institut, Jebel Amman, at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * "The Syrian-Lebanese position towards the settlement," (in Arabic) by Dr. George Dib at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.
- * "Materials in Contemporary Sculpture" by Dr. Khalid Khreis at Darat Al Funun, at 6:00 p.m.

Powell slams Clinton, says U.S. weakened in world

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired General Colin Powell, who is considering a run for president, said he opposed U.S. intervention in Bosnia and was sharply critical of President Bill Clinton in an interview released Sunday.

In the interview with the New Yorker magazine, Gen. Powell said the United States "ought to send a clear signal that we're not going to get involved in this war, and it's not going to end until people are tired of fighting one another."

"For three years we've been giving these mixed signals so the signals are worthless, and therefore we are weakened and cheapened in the eyes of the world. We

have a very bad reputation around the world now as an incontinent political entity.

"It's hurt the president badly and it's hurt his statesmanship really badly," said Gen. Powell, a career soldier who was head of the joint chiefs of staff during the Gulf War.

Gen. Powell started a 26-city tour to promote his autobiography Saturday, a tour many observers see as a prelude to announcing his candidacy for the 1996 presidential election.

In the interview, Gen. Powell was also critical of former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, saying they were "wanting" in their attitudes toward racism.

"Even though Reagan and Bush are two of the closest people in my life, I've got to say this (racism) was an area where I found them wanting. They were never sensitized to it. They never had to live with it. They were never close to it," Gen. Powell said.

The son of poor Jamaican immigrants, Gen. Powell was raised in the Bronx and rose to become the first black to head the U.S. military.

In the interview, Gen. Powell also took a strong stand backing affirmative action.

"One of my Republican friends had the nerve to send me one of their newsletters a few weeks ago saying that

we had to get rid of affirmative action because we couldn't keep putting these programmes in place for allegations of 'vague and ancient wrongs.'

"I almost went crazy. Vague? Vague? Denny's wouldn't serve four Black Secret Service agents guarding the president of the United States," he said.

Gen. Powell added that if he ran he hoped the vote would be colour-blind.

"I really don't want to be elected the first black American president. I don't want to be the poster child for the brothers (street slang for blacks) or for guilty white liberals."

Protesters attack trains, explode crude bombs in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Opposition activists attacked a passenger train, uprooted the railroad track and exploded crude bombs as a three-day anti-government strike paralysed life in Bangladesh, police and news reports said Monday.

At least 50 passengers were injured when protesters stopped a passenger train and smashed some coaches in Chandpur district, 64 kilometres east of Dhaka Sunday, local newspapers said.

They also damaged railroad tracks at two places in Chandpur district, Bangladesh Patrika said.

At least 400 people were injured in clashes between rival political groups on the first two days of the strike — Saturday and Sunday, police said. The strike will end early Tuesday.

Nearly 200 protesters, most of them street children,

have been arrested by police. The strike was called to press for the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It will end at dawn Tuesday.

On Monday, opposition activists set off crude bombs in different parts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, witnesses said. No casualties were immediately reported. Crude bombs are tin pots filled with explosives.

The streets looked deserted as shops remained closed. Trash piled up on street corners as the protesters did not allow garbage-cleaning trucks to ply.

Thousands of opposition activists marched through the streets of Dhaka, chanting: "Khaleda Zia, you must resign now."

Industrial workers squatted on railroads and highways in different parts of the country.

About 5,000 police and

paramilitary troops patrolled the capital city. On Saturday, some government officials walking to their offices were stripped naked by the protesters.

The strike halted train movement and severely disrupted ferry services and air flights, United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

Three main opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-E-Islami — accuse Mrs. Zia of incompetence and corruption. They want her to resign and call for general elections under a caretaker government. Opposition lawmakers have already resigned their parliamentary seats.

The prime minister has rejected the opposition demand. She has offered to resign 30 days before the next election scheduled early next year.

Hong Kong voters deliver slap in face to Beijing

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong voters slapped China in the face by handing a convincing victory Monday to the pro-democracy camp in the last legislative elections before the 1997 handover of the British colony.

In the race to elect all 60 seats in Hong Kong's Legislative Council for the first time in 150 years of colonial rule, the Democratic Party, whose leaders have been denounced by China as subversives, won three times as many seats as pro-Beijing rivals.

Beijing's standard bearers, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB), suffered the further humiliation of seeing the defeat of its top guns, party leader Tsang Yok-Sing and his two deputies.

"Democracy wins. Hong Kong people want democracy. Hong Kong people certainly are in support of political reforms and they want a system of checks and balances to deal with Beijing," said political scientist Joseph Cheng of City University.

But the victory was not enough to give the pro-democracy camp an automatic majority in the Legislative Council.

The pro-business lobby, which regards the Democrats with suspicion, and independents hold the balance of power.

The DAB's poorer than expected performance, however, is expected to anger China, which left Hong Kong in no doubt of its views when the polls opened Sunday.

Furious about electoral reforms pushed through by British Governor Chris Patten a year ago, Beijing repeated its vow to dismantle the chamber when the British leave and to replace it with an institution of its own choosing.

But China's latest broadcast may have backfired. "Nobody likes to be pushed around or bullied," said political scientist Michael Degolyer, director of the 1997 transition project based at Hong Kong's Baptist University.

The pro-democracy camp fared particularly well in the crucial 20 seats from the normal population-based constituencies, the so-called Geographical Constituencies.

Each person with a job gets a second vote to elect candidates based in so-called functional constituencies based on professions. These elect 30 Legislative Council members.

The Democratic Party won 11 of the 20 Geographical Constituency seats against the two secured by the DAB.

The pro-democracy camp made up of sympathetic independents and smaller affiliated parties took the balance and the pro-business lobby took one.



Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II leads the service during the reburial ceremony of Grand Duke Sergei Romanov, the uncle of the last Russian Czar Nicolas II, at the family crypt in the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow (AFP photo)

Russia reburies Romanov relative in Moscow monastery

MOSCOW (AP) — The uncle of Russia's last czar was reburied alongside other Romanov relatives in the chapel of a dilapidated Moscow monastery — an elaborate preliminary to the expected interment of Nicholas II and his family.

The remains of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich Romanov, governor of Moscow for 15 years until his murder in 1905, were transported from a long-forgotten grave in a Kremlin corner to the Novospassky Monastery.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II led the somber ceremony, attended by dozens of state officials and other notables. Members of the royal Romanov family wept, standing next to Moscow Mayor — Yuri Luzhkov and other guests.

"We made an enormous step that will open a bright path both for Moscow and the entire Russia," Grand Duchess Maria Romanova, clad in a black mourning dress, said after the ceremony.

The event set the scene for the long-awaited reburial of the grand duke's more famous nephew.

American and Russian experts confirmed earlier this month that bones unearthed in the Ural Mountains in 1991 were those of Nicholas II and his family and servants.

The announcement set off widespread speculation that the family will be given an official, religious burial early in 1996.

That would be a huge

event in Russia, where nationalist feelings are growing rapidly and the brutal Bolshevik killing of the czar, his wife Alexandra and their five children is a source of deep shame. It remains unclear when the burial ceremony could take place.

A government commission dealing with the issue is due to hold a meeting on Sept. 20 and submit its proposals to the cabinet by mid-October, its head Yuri Yarov said earlier this month.

The remains of Nicholas II and his family may be buried in Yekaterinburg where they were executed in 1918, or in St. Petersburg's St. Peter and Paul Fortress where other ruling members of the Romanov dynasty have been laid to rest, he said.

The remains of the grand duke, meanwhile, were moved at the request of President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Orthodox Church to boost support for the reconstruction of the long-neglected Novospassky.

After his bomb assassination by a Socialist revolutionary 90 years ago, Sergei Romanov was buried in a 14th century Kremlin temple, which was later razed upon orders from Josef Stalin.

The area where the church used to stand, between remaining churches and the new government buildings, was paved over and was used for decades to park black sedans used by government and Communist Party officials.

The church's crypt and the grand duke's remains were discovered under the parking lot during a renovation in the Kremlin last July, according to the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets. Russia's Independent Television said the remains were first found in 1985, and were quietly covered up with concrete again.

Speaking of such Soviet practices, Patriarch Alexei told the television: "You cannot walk over those who have lived before us, who have contributed to the well-being of our land and have helped its people."

The unusual reburial reflects the history of Novospassky itself. The monastery was originally constructed on the Kremlin grounds, but was moved in the 15th century to the banks of the Moscow River. It later became the official burial ground for some members of the Romanov family.

In 1918, the Bolsheviks turned Novospassky into a prison camp. The monastery site also served as a rehabilitation centre for women alcoholics during the Soviet era.

The elaborately decorated chapel, lined with centuries-old frescoes and icons, reopened for services in 1991, and the Russian Orthodox Church is renovating the rest of the facility.

Before Sunday's service, workers casually cleared construction materials from the monastery's main square, piling them against its crumbling outer walls.

Queen mother bans Camilla from official gatherings

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles' hopes of easing his paramour into his public life were dashed by his grandmother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth the queen mother has twice refused Prince Charles' requests to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to official functions at her residences, the Sunday Express quoted an unidentified senior royal adviser as saying. Prince Charles had hoped to invite Mrs. Parker Bowles to events at the queen mother's residences in Wales and Scotland because she still sets family policy on such matters, the newspaper said. His mother, Queen Elizabeth, would likely follow suit and refuse to allow Mrs. Parker Bowles to attend even those functions where the queen mother was absent. The queen mother has no objections to Mrs. Parker Bowles per se, but wants to prevent her grandson from divorcing Princess Diana while he is heir to the throne. Prince Charles reportedly wants to ease Mrs. Parker Bowles into public life and eventually marry her. The adviser quoted the 95-year-old queen mother as saying, "The British people would never accept a divorced king and queen. It would divide the country." She would prefer Prince Charles, 48, renounce his claim to the throne in favour of his elder son, Prince William. In that case, a marriage to Mrs. Parker Bowles, 47, could be countenanced by the royal family. Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in 1992. Last year he admitted publicly that he had been unfaithful to Princess Diana. An authorised biography later named the other woman as Mrs. Parker Bowles. This year, Mrs. Parker Bowles divorced her husband, increasing speculation that the prince sought to bring her closer into his life.

Liz Taylor released from hospital

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor went home three days after she was admitted to a Santa Monica hospital for treatment of an irregular heartbeat. Taylor's doctor successfully treated her condition with medication and she was doing well, according to officials at St. John's Hospital. The 63-year-old actress, whose career has been punctuated by health problems, was taken to hospital last Thursday with what was described as "irregularity of her heart rhythm." Last June Taylor underwent hip replacement surgery — just a year after a similar operation on the other hip — and she still walks with a cane. Though Taylor last month announced a "trial separation" from her seventh husband, construction worker Larry Fortensky, he reportedly visited her during her latest hospital stay.

Don't rule out Bodyguard sequel

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget Return To Waterworld, but don't rule out a Bodyguard sequel. "The script would have to be great. People know how I feel about writing, so it has to be something special," Kevin Costner told Entertainment Weekly in the Sept. 22 issue. There's one second coming the actor will never make happen. "I still watch Field Of Dreams and tear up," Costner said. "We could never do it justice in a part two."

Seclusion appeals to Anthony Quinn

BRISTOL, Rhode Island (AFP) — Seeking privacy and comfort, veteran actor Anthony Quinn has purchased a six-hectare (15-acre) estate in a remote corner of the Narragansett Bay for \$11.45 million. "The seclusion appealed to him," said real estate agent Richard Dower. Quinn has nothing to fear from his neighbours in the upscale area, who include Ira Magaziner, a top adviser to President Bill Clinton.

N.Ireland loyalists to visit Dublin

DUBLIN (R) — Spokesmen for Protestant gunmen who bombed Dublin in the past in their battle to keep Northern Ireland British return to the Irish capital this week to talk peace.

The unprecedented visit by so-called loyalist groups will be a rare ray of sunshine onto a Northern Ireland peace process which is overshadowed by a bitter deadlock over disarming Northern Ireland guerrillas.

Their visit is seen by Irish officials as a payout of the peace dividend which was announced when the IRA and the loyalists, the IRA's most bitter foes, declared twin ceasefires one year ago.

An Anglo-Irish peace drive is currently paralysed by the refusal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to give up a single weapon in an arsenal used to fight British rule for 25 years.

But the visits by the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) Tuesday and Wednesday are seen as evidence that the peace process can bear fruit.

They are also viewed as proof that mainstream Protestant parties in Northern Ireland, so-called Union-

ist groups with a dozen seats in the British parliament, are out of touch with a growing body of Protestant opinion in the province.

David Ervine, leader of the PUP, is fond of saying that for 25 years Northern Ireland's Unionist parties lived under the banner of "Ulster says no".

"And where did 25 years of saying no get us," he told Reuters in a recent interview. "Nowhere. It's time to live up to the new realities on this island," he said.

He is expected to discuss the disarming of guerrillas, the main stumbling block in Anglo-Irish efforts to put a more solid foundation under the ceasefires and build a lasting peace.

Neither the PUP nor the DUP hold seats in the British parliament but their part in brokering a ceasefire by loyalist gunmen one year ago gives them an important political voice.

They see themselves as the mirror image of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, which seeks to become a fully-fledged political party free from any links to bloodshed.

For 25 years loyalist gunmen saw Dublin as the cen-

tre of a plot to end Northern Ireland's British status and merge it with the predominantly Roman Catholic Irish Republic.

The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) killed 900 Catholics in Northern Ireland in a cold-blooded campaign against the community from which the IRA draws support.

Their most recent bombings were a 1993 UVF attack on a Sinn Fein function at a Dublin pub in which one person was killed and a bungled attempt to blow up a train at a Dublin station.

The loyalists' inept handling of Semtex plastic explosive is in marked contrast to the expertise of the IRA, whose bombers are thought to hold about one tonne of the substance and refuse to give it up until Britain holds all-party peace talks.

But the London government says there will be no new round-table talks for a lasting settlement involving Sinn Fein or the loyalists until their gunmen start giving up their guns.

Japan searches for missing typhoon victims

TOKYO (AP) — Police continued their search Monday for three people washed away by the rough waters in one of the most powerful storms to hit Japan since World War II.

By early Monday, typhoon Oscar veered off to the northeast of Japan early Monday after doing less damage than expected. It was downgraded to a low pressure system, and sunshine returned to around Tokyo.

On Sunday, Oscar's winds reached 174 kilometres per hour (108 mph), making it comparable to typhoons that killed 1,269 people in 1958 and 5,098 in 1959 in the Tokyo area.

One man was killed Sunday in a landslide in Shizuoka,

95 miles west of Tokyo. And in Chiba, just east of Tokyo, a man died after strong winds apparently knocked him into an irrigation reservoir.

On Monday, police dispatched helicopters and rescue teams in search of the people still missing since Sunday.

A 47-year-old man and his 4-year-old child who were washed away by high waves from a beach at Oiso, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Tokyo, as well as a fisherman who fell into a river in Gifu, 270 kilometres (170 miles) west of Tokyo, are still missing, local police said.

The National Police Agency said at least 18 people were injured and nearly

120 houses were destroyed or damaged by Oscar. They said landslides were reported at 49 places and heavy rain flooded 185 homes in Tokyo and six other nearby prefectures (states).

Two smaller typhoons are traveling southwest of the Japanese archipelago. Typhoon Polly, the thirteenth of the season, is currently 1,700 kilometres (1,054 miles) southwest of Tokyo with top winds of 108 kph (67 mph). Ryan is currently off the coast of southern China with winds up to 90 kph (56 mph).

Weather stations predicted that both typhoons are to veer off to the Pacific Ocean before hitting Japan.

Queen mother bans Camilla from official gathering
LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has refused Prince Charles' requests to bring his fiancée, Camilla, to a Sunday afternoon tea at her residence, the Queen's Palace, in London. The Queen Mother, who is 92, is reportedly averse to the public life of her son-in-law and his new partner. The Queen Mother's refusal is seen as a significant snub to the couple, who have been together for over 20 years. The Queen Mother is known for her traditional values and her close relationship with the royal family. The Queen, who is 78, has been supportive of the couple, but the Queen Mother's stance is a clear indication of her disapproval. The couple's relationship has been a subject of much speculation and controversy, with many people questioning the wisdom of the Queen's choice. The Queen Mother's refusal to allow Camilla to attend the tea is a clear statement of her disapproval and a warning to the couple that their relationship is not accepted by the royal family.



One of the main players in Canada's Gustafsen Lake blockade, William Jones 'Wolverine' Ignace, is escorted from a police helicopter to jail (AFP photo)

Canada standoff ends as Indians lay down guns

100 MILE HOUSE, British Columbia (R) — A bitter, month-long standoff between Canadian police and a rebel group of native Indians ended peacefully Sunday after an Indian spiritual leader convinced the group to lay down their guns.

Two rebel leaders, William Jones "Wolverine" Ignace and Percy Rosset, surrendered to police and were taken by helicopter from a disputed ranch in the rugged British Columbia interior to nearby 100 Mile House. All 14 militants followed.

About 100 natives lining the 100 Mile House Airport road chanted, drummed and cheered as groups of rebels were led from the helicopters to waiting police vehicles and shuttled away.

The Indians occupied since June part of a private ranch at Gustafsen Lake, about 450 kilometres north-east of Vancouver, claiming it as sacred aboriginal ground. The standoff, which began in August and erupted into gunfire at least seven times, followed a string of confrontations between Indians and police across Canada in recent months sparked by the issue of native land claims.

In Grand Bend, Ontario, a 38-year old Indian was killed this month and two others injured in a gunbattle with police at a provincial park occupied by Indian demonstrators. The Canadian government acknowledged last week there was some evidence to back native claims that part of the park was a sacred burial ground.

The British Columbia standoff included a two-hour barrage last Monday. Police Sergeant Peter Montague said Sunday there had been no more violence after Wednesday's visit from another spiritual leader, Chief Arvol Looking Horse of South Dakota.

Since Wednesday, repeated visits to the camp to effect what Sgt. Montague described as "an orderly evacuation" were conducted by several elders of the Shuswap nation. Another police spokesman, Corporal John Ward, told reporters that at least one elder who had visited the camp Sunday stayed behind to watch over the natives' sacred relics, which include four buffalo skulls.

Meanwhile, the province's Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh told television network BCTV the province would not tolerate guns being used against police. "There will be no immunity from prosecution, no amnesty," Mr. Dosanjh said.

Yeltsin urges greater effort to secure peace in Chechnya — Lobov

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has ordered his government to step up its efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Chechnya, presidential envoy Oleg Lobov was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying Monday.

Mr. Lobov, who is also secretary to the powerful Russian Security Council, arrived in the Chechen capital Monday with the message that Mr. Yeltsin wanted to secure a lasting peace and rebuild infrastructure in the breakaway southern Russian republic.

Mr. Yeltsin "ordered the Russian government to step up its work to rebuild Chechen industry and search for a peaceful solution to the conflict," Mr. Lobov said. The message was delivered as a military agreement providing for the disarmament of Chechnya's separatists and the withdrawal of Russian troops, remains largely academic.

Russia has made it clear that talks on a political settlement cannot proceed until the military accord, signed July 30, has been respected. Separatist negotiators have raised several objections to the implementation of the pact, most recently citing delays in Russian troop withdrawal and the continued armed status of pro-Moscow Chechen factions.

The stalemate has been matched by a volatile situation on the ground, with Russian military officials saying attacks on Russian positions have been getting more aggressive. One Russian soldier was killed and eight wounded in firefights in Grozny, according to Interfax.

Conservative Lobov, an unpopular choice as the Russian president's special representative in the tiny Caucasus republic, is due to remain in Grozny for at least a week. Russian troops marched into the secessionist republic in December to put down a three-year-old independence movement, sparking a conflict which has left between 15,000 and 30,000 dead.

He said the Catholic Church's desire "to Christianise the African continent before the year 2000 has been taken as a provocation, a declaration of war." "This declaration was made two or three years ago. At the beginning it was our intention to meet the Pope to show our faith, but later on, some Muslims remembered what he had said," he added. "To avoid divisions among the Muslims we decided not to meet him."

The Pontiff was welcomed by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi after arriving in Nairobi from South Africa at 3:10 p.m. (1510 GMT). He had previously visited Cameroon. Papal trip coordinator Father Stephen Okello said Muslim representatives had handed back VIP cards to the ceremony because of the boycott.

St. Thomas confronts hurricane damage with no power, water

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — The yachts that used to be in the marina are on the highway. The red roofs of houses are strewn on the ground. The duty-free shops where tourists used to look for bargains are filled with looters.

Hurricane Marilyn has moved on from St. Thomas, but the Caribbean island that it left behind was a changed place Sunday. Electricity, water and phones were out. Air traffic controllers, the windows of their tower blown out by 100-mph winds, used binoculars and radios to guide in relief flights. A quarter of the houses on the island were destroyed, and nearly all the others damaged.

In Charlotte Amalie, capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands, hundreds of people looted stores at a waterfront shopping centre. No policemen were in sight. "These are all odd shoes, man," said a young man at a foot locker store. "I can't find something that fits."

The hurricane, the fourth to hit the Caribbean in as many weeks, tore through the Virgin Islands and eastern Puerto Rico Saturday, blowing apart homes, tossing parked airplanes into the air and killing as many as nine people.

Six people were killed on St. Thomas, home to 51,000 people. On St. Croix, the most populous of the Virgin Islands with 55,000 people, two people died. One person was killed in Puerto Rico. On Sunday, Marilyn was churning northwest through the open Atlantic, well east of the U.S. Mainland. At 0300 GMT (11 p.m. EDT), its centre was about 615 miles south-southwest of Bermuda and its top sustained winds were about 160 kph (100 mph).

President Bill Clinton declared the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico disaster areas, making them eligible for federal emergency aid. Seven military transport planes landed Sunday on St. Thomas with the first relief supplies for island residents — plastic sheeting, water, telephone equipment, emergency medical supplies.

In St. Thomas, many buildings lost their facades, gaping open like dolls' houses. FEMA at first said half the island's houses were destroyed, but later said a quarter were destroyed and another 75 per cent damaged. Marilyn blew out the windows of St. Thomas' hospital and flooded it, making it virtually unusable. Doctors were trying to care for 49 patients, including nine critically injured in the storm and four on life-support units with erratic generator power, said Dr. Manuel Guzman.

Eight patients were evacuated Sunday, all by helicopter because debris blocked the road to the airport. Tin sheets from roofs, uprooted trees and utility poles lined the highway. A stretch along the waterfront was blocked by two yachts blown onto the road from the bay. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Point Ledge teetered on the edge of the pier, 10 metres (30 feet) from the roadway. Another two dozen yachts were beached on the far side of the bay.

The dead on St. Thomas included three people who reportedly were aboard boats battered by 4-metre-high (12-foot-high) waves and at least one man apparently crushed by debris, said David Sachs of the federal emergency management agency (FEMA). Police in Puerto Rico Sunday found the body of Jack Strickland, a diving instructor from New York City, in a sunken sailboat. Two more were killed by the storm in St. Croix, hospital officials said without elaborating. It was not clear if they were included in the St. Thomas count.

Pope arrives in Kenya, faces boycott by Muslims

NAIROBI (AFP) — Pope John Paul II arrived in Kenya on the third and final leg of his African tour Monday but was plunged into controversy as Muslims pledged to boycott his visit.

Sheikh Ali Shee, a Muslim imam who had been due to address the Pope at a ceremony Tuesday, told AFP it was due to a centuries-old "traditional holy war" between Muslims and Roman Catholics. He said the Catholic Church's desire "to Christianise the African continent before the year 2000 has been taken as a provocation, a declaration of war."

"This declaration was made two or three years ago. At the beginning it was our intention to meet the Pope to show our faith, but later on, some Muslims remembered what he had said," he added. "To avoid divisions among the Muslims we decided not to meet him."

The Pontiff was welcomed by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi after arriving in Nairobi from South Africa at 3:10 p.m. (1510 GMT). He had previously visited Cameroon. Papal trip coordinator Father Stephen Okello said Muslim representatives had handed back VIP cards to the ceremony because of the boycott.

"They feel that the central issue about the African Synod is the Catholic Church has an agenda evangelising the whole of Africa by the year 2000," he told journalists as the Pope was en route. Another reason was that they were protesting the persecution of Muslims in Spain during the Crusades of the early middle ages — an event traditionally commemorated in September. "Any act of collaboration with the church in this month would express their approval of what happened to the Muslims many years ago in Spain," Fr. Okello said.

Shuttle returns after 11-day mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Endeavour astronauts ended their 11-day mission Monday, returning to Earth with samples of ultra-pure semiconductor films and digital pictures of the solar wind for scientists to analyse.

Shuttle Commander Dave Walker and pilot Ken Cockrell guided the spacecraft to a smooth landing at the Kennedy Space Centre at 7:38 a.m. EDT (1138 GMT) under clear and sunny skies.

"Welcome back and congratulations on a successful and spectacular flight," said mission control communicator Eileen Collins.

The Endeavour trip marked the fifth shuttle mission this year for NASA. Space agency officials hope to launch the shuttle Columbia next week on a 16-day mission to study microgravity.

Sweden snubs EU after just 9 months

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's people delivered a harsh verdict on the European Union (EU) when they were called on to vote in their first elections to the European Parliament.

Only 41.3 per cent of the electorate voted in Sunday's election, nine months after Sweden joined the EU. It was the lowest turnout in the parliamentary history of a country where turnout usually exceeds 80 per cent.

Of those who did bother to vote, almost one-third supported small green and left-wing parties which had campaigned openly against Sweden's membership of the EU.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson's Social Democratic Party (SDP), which took Sweden into the EU, received a sharp rebuff, getting only 28.1 per cent of the vote.

In general elections a year ago, Mr. Carlsson's SDP won more than 45 per cent of the vote from a poll of 86 per cent of the electorate. The result means that at least seven of Sweden's 22 European parliamentarians will be politicians who oppose EU membership.

Political analysts said the failure of the EU to perform miracle cures on Sweden's shaky economy was one reason for the success of anti-European movements.

But odd-sounding directives from Brussels dictating the size and shape of vegetables and transport regulations which appeared to lack

logic had also played a key role, they said.

The victorious anti-EU parties — the Greens, which trebled their vote from 12 months ago to win 17.2 per cent, and the Left Party, which won 12.9 per cent — immediately demanded moves to pull Sweden out of the union.

Greens Party spokesman Birger Schlaug said the government should call a new referendum on EU membership after intergovernmental conferences due to be held next year. "And then we can get out of the EU," he said.

EU opponents said Sweden should not now continue with plans to take part in the EU's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

"The election result is a clear signal to the government that they cannot decide on Sweden being part of monetary union without asking us all over again in a referendum," said Left Party leader Gudrun Schyman.

The SDP will have seven seats in the European parliament, the Moderates five, the Greens four, the Left Party three, the Centre Party two and the conservative Peoples Party one.

"Of course it's a blow," said Mr. Carlsson, who has been criticised for allowing both pro and anti-EU factions to operate within the SDP.

"Now we have to think seriously about how to increase the awareness of Europe among voters. We cannot isolate ourselves."

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Room for Japan

THE JAPANESE prime minister's visit to Jordan and other neighbouring countries comes at a time when the region is in the midst of a transformation process that will produce sea changes in both the area's economic and political relations. That there is room for a stronger Japanese role in this process is a given. And that both Japan and the countries of the region will mutually benefit from stronger ties is also a fact.

The opportunities that the peace process will avail to the region and those who deal with it are enormous. But utilising these opportunities will require a partnership between Middle Eastern states and countries with the necessary funds and technological knowhow. Japan is a suitable partner that countries of the area will find worthy of appreciation, especially for its experience in achieving economic growth. So are the markets of the region extremely necessary for a Japanese industry that is facing stiff competition from other industrialised nations.

The Middle East needs Japanese investments and skills. Japan needs the region's markets. Cooperation thus should be helpful to both parties.

But economics is not the only area in which Japan can play a strong role in the Middle East. Japan has become an economic superpower which can no longer afford to play a marginal role in international politics. Its economic might needs to be accompanied by a political role that ensures balance in every field of international cooperation. Japan has a vested interest in seeing regional conflicts resolved on the basis of fairness and justice because this will lead to stability which in turn will create markets.

In the Middle East, Japan enjoys much more respect and appreciation than many other world powers due to its history of friendly ties with the Arab World. Tapping on this reservoir of mutual respect and goodwill is something which Japan must do in order to serve its interest as well as those of its friends in the region.

Jordan stands out as one of the strongest friends Japan has in this part of the world. The two states have for long enjoyed a solid relationship based on understanding and cooperation. The Kingdom is now opening its doors to international investors and a few can argue against the availability of economic opportunities in the Kingdom. Japanese investors will find more than profitable projects in the Kingdom. They will find a culture that respects theirs and a political system that harnesses ties with the Japanese people.

It is in this context of appreciation of the support that Japan has offered the Kingdom throughout the years that we welcome Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Amman. And it is with hope for stronger ties and more cooperation that Jordan looks to its future relations with Japan.

Many nations are trying to find a place for themselves and their economies in the changing Middle East. Japan has earned itself a clear edge over many of them by adopting a balanced and consistent policy towards the region. Jordan and Japan can set an example for the kind of partnership that should exist between the Middle East and that part of the world, namely Asia, in which Japan is a leader.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Monday welcomed a visit to Jordan by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and expressed deep appreciation of Japan's continued aid to the Kingdom. Jordan is deeply grateful to Japan for contributing to Jordan's development economically and socially. By helping Jordan, Japan is contributing most effectively towards enhancing the Middle East peace process, said the paper. It said that Japan being one of the richest nations can through economic assistance play a leading role in the Kingdom's development projects and contribute to the region's stability. On the political level Japan can give impetus to the multilateral phase of the peace process. By maintaining strong contacts with and providing economic assistance to the countries of this region, and by providing political contributions to the stability of Jordan and neighbouring countries, Japan is thus encouraging regional cooperation and contributing to the building of peace and shaping a better future for the coming generations, the newspaper said.

A writer in Al Dustour called for monthly meetings between journalists, and editors of the weekly papers and the Minister of Information with whom they can exchange views about the on-going developments to help the tabloids improve their performance. Mohammad Subeili said that the government cannot put the blame on these weeklies for the way they have been performing and cannot hold them responsible for harming Jordan's relations with other countries by their reports because the editors are not invited to meetings with the King nor do they have access to the minister of information said the writer. He claimed that the weeklies have been complaining of the government's behaviour and not giving them serious attention. But he said the weeklies are becoming influential and affecting the views of a large sector of the public in the country.

The View from Fourth Circle

Two years after Oslo: Logic 1, lunatics 0

TWO YEARS after the signing of the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel, the balance sheet of peace-making is more than mildly impressive. Like the conflict between the Arab and Zionist identities in Palestine and the wider Middle East for most of this century, the process of making peace has stumbled along from one mini-crisis to another — but in the stumbling it has made significant, incremental progress.

Several things need to be recognised about the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, the most important being that the process itself continues apace. Implementation of the Oslo accord is moving ahead, despite its considerable flaws. Both sides are expending more, rather than less, energy and thought today on the mechanics of peace-making than they were a year ago.

The opponents of peace have been soundly checked to date, but they have not been fully defeated. The Israeli Likud and the Palestinian alliance of Islamists and lefties wait in the wings like ideological vultures who feed on the carcasses of their people's political discontent and despair. But they have had little to feed on in the last two years, because the majorities on both sides have clearly indicated their willingness to pursue Oslo's fuzzy promise.

In this respect, it is important to note how the issue of terror against Israelis — notably bombings of Israeli civilian buses by Palestinians Islamists — has largely lost its political impact. With every new bombing, the Israeli government declares its determination to continue the talks even quicker than it did after the previous bombing. Terror has backfired against the bombers. It has solidified centrist Israeli public support to continue with the peace process, because most Israelis now realise the separation between Israel and Palestine is probably the best way to ensure Israel's security; and, it has given Yasser Arafat and his 18,000 guards good reason to come down hard on the Islamists, resulting in a considerable loss of Islamist face and credibility among Palestinians (to the point where the Islamists, at least the Hamas Islamists, are ready to make a political deal with Arafat & Guards).

It is striking today how channellily Israeli government ministers — not leftie lunatic weirdos, but government ministers

— speak of the imminent birth of a sovereign Palestinian state. Foreign dignitaries (the latest, this week, are from South Africa and Japan) routinely visit Orient House in Jerusalem, the unofficial PLO headquarters. Most Israelis find this politically marginal, except for West Jerusalem Mayor Yossi Olmert, whom most Israelis also find politically marginal.

The gradual, de facto birth of a sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine is taking place in the minds of many Arab and Israeli people, and in symbols and trappings of statehood, before it actually happens on the ground in a de jure manner.

Recognising this, over one-third of Jewish settlers and colonists in the West Bank have already expressed some desire or willingness to return to Israel proper. If they are compensated financially. How interesting — nobody has officially asked them to leave, yet one-third already are emotionally packing their bags. Most of the rest will follow in due course.

Oslo allowed Jordan and Israel to sign their peace accord, and initiated a series of bilateral and multilateral Israeli contacts with others in this region. Our region's formal acceptance of Israel as one of many native Semite sons will contribute positively to the narrower Israel-Palestine negotiations; justice and peace will advance parallel with the dynamic by which Israelis gradually disengage their memories of persecution at the hands of mostly Christian Europeans from their future vision of acceptance by mostly Muslim Arabs.

This suggests to me that the single most important achievement of the last two years has been in the psychological rather than in the political or territorial realm.

The Oslo process, despite the continuing frustration, fear and even humiliation that it engenders among both Israelis and Palestinians, is proving to be a huge logistical success. It is providing the hitherto elusive platform from which both sides feel confident to swim into uncharted territory, because they now recognise that they will both swim there together as neighbours and partners, rather than as predatory adversaries.

By providing the space, time and modalities for ongoing negotiations among two parties that had viewed one another as existential foes, the Oslo process has permitted the majority among the Palestinian and Israeli political leadership to make the difficult but critical psychological transition that is a prerequisite for genuine justice and peace: not only does each side now view the other as a credible and reliable partner, but in fact each side needs the other now in order to make the peace process work, and so to ward off the Palestinian and Israeli ideological vultures back home who hover overhead, waiting for the negotiators to make a

fatal mistake. This procedural, psychological breakthrough has occurred at the expense of substantive, political progress. The amazing thing about the Oslo process is that, two years on, it has yet to seriously address substantive issues of land, water, refugees, Zionist colonies and settlements, Jerusalem and other such key subjects. The achievements to date are psychologically compelling, but politically and territorially superficial.

Of course, Oslo was not designed to address the tough core issues until Spring 1996. The situation on the ground may require a speeding up of the Oslo timetable. Situations such as armed Zionist settler colonialism in Hebron — not only righty lunatic weirdos, but armed settlers formally protected by the army of the state of Israel — have forced both sides to take a huge step forward into the realm of the substantive, finally to make the transition from psychological massaging to national arm-wrestling.

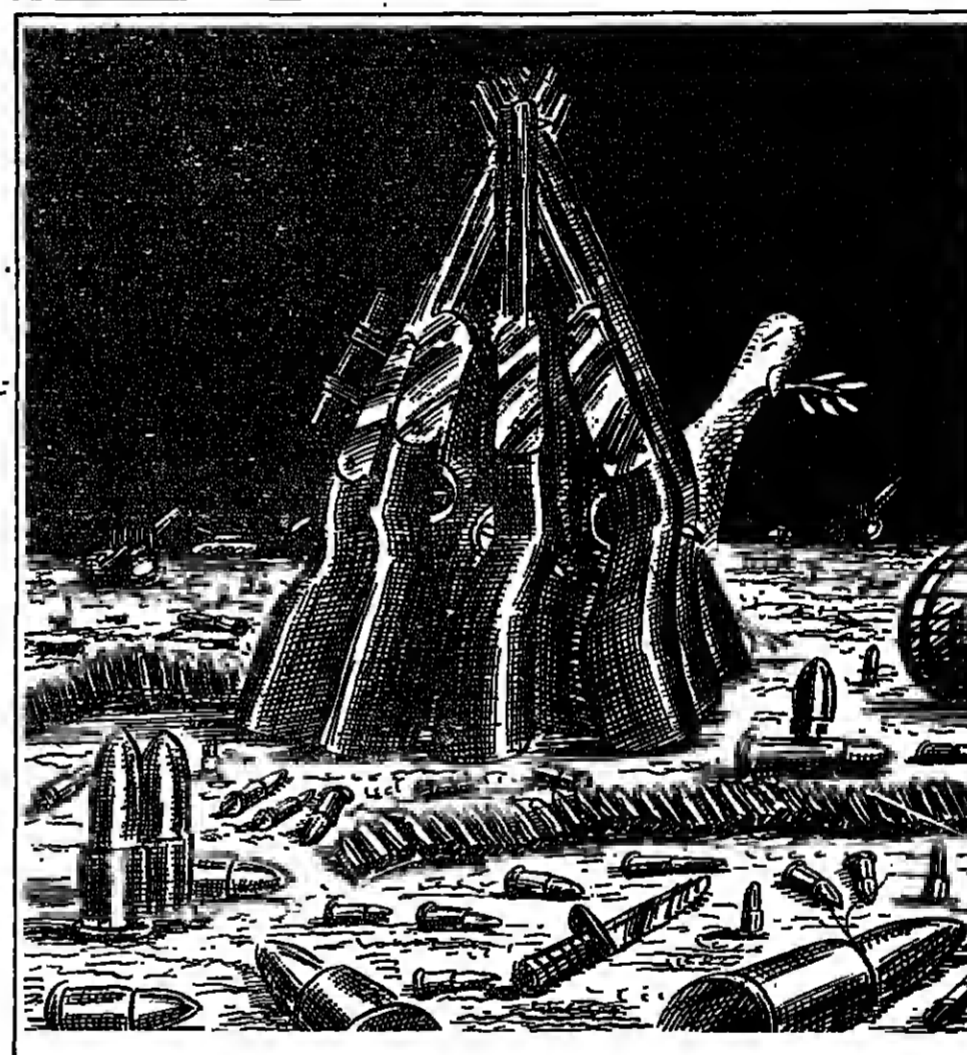
My personal guess is that the Oslo process will proceed and succeed, because of the proven efficacy to date of its single most important element: the willingness to compromise politically in the short term, in order to allow for continued psychological détente that will achieve more substantive political gains in the long term. As long as both sides feel that short-term compromise brings them long-term reward, this dynamic will continue to achieve progressively more substantive political and territorial breakthroughs. The last two years have shown that Oslo represents a process and a mindset, rather than a quantifiable peace deal. I and others who have supported the Oslo process from its inception — and still support it — argue today that its gains cannot be fully measured today, because as a process it brings gains only with time.

The past two years have not been wasted. They have achieved what the past two generations could not achieve: tacit recognition of the other's humanity and statehood by both Palestinians and Israelis. Now the hard work begins, as both sides negotiate the facts on the ground, as they translate a tacit acceptance of the other to a formal recognition of the territorial expression of the other's national identity. The arm twisting will be tough, sometimes violent, always trying, but it has to start.

Hebron is the first test of this hard new phase of negotiations, the most dramatic and substantive test to date of the success of the gradualist Oslo approach to peace-making. According to the logic and young legacy of the Oslo process, it is most likely now that the Israeli settlers will leave Hebron in the same way they entered it — in a slow, phased manner, determined largely by political considerations, embellished with much ideological kicking and screaming, and escorted all the way out by the uniformed and armed soldiers of the state of Israel.

A faltering hope takes flight

By Jonathan Steele on the Serbs, Croats and Muslims who want Bosnia reintegrated



of a collective presidency in which all nationalities are represented is not enough. The delegation included people from the presidency, and they know well how nominal is their power.

The other delegation in London this week consisted of politicians and civil leaders, linked to the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, who doubt the federative principle itself. They are Bosnia's true non-nationalists. They argue that while a federation is preferable to a state based on one nationality alone (as Croatia and Serbia have in practice become), it is still flawed. It fails to give specific recognition to other minorities, such as Jews. It creates a political limbo for those who continue to call themselves Yugoslavs, either because they are the children of mixed marriages or because they resist ethnic identification out of principle. It forces people to think ethnically, reducing every socio-economic or political choice to the question of whether it benefits this group or that.

Arguing over such matters may seem like a luxury at this moment in the Bosnian tragedy. This is a false perception. The nature of the peace which people want can have a crucial bearing on the time needed to finish the war.

The first requirement now must be for the tentative truce established around Sarajevo to lead to a wider ceasefire throughout Bosnia. The military advances made by Bosnian government troops and Croatian allies in western

Bosnia may lift morale in some quarters, but they carry within them the seeds of new civilian misery as the refugee columns lurch north towards Banja Luka.

Under the peace plan accepted in Geneva, the Serbs in the Madic-Karadzic camp were due to give up a large chunk of the territory they seized in the early part of the war. For the other two sides to seize territory by force before the maps are worked out is wrong for at least three reasons. It turns yet more innocent people into refugees. It further reduces the chances of a multi-ethnic Bosnia by intimidating and expelling people for no other reason than that they are not of the same nationality as the incoming army. It does not even have "historical justice" behind it, because many of the towns in western Bosnia captured this week were always wholly or largely Serb. They were occupied by Madic's forces three years ago. They were not seized. Capturing them does not mean that Croats and Muslims are regaining their homes. It is invasion.

The central weakness of this week's Geneva agreement was its silence on the constitutional arrangements for an integrated Bosnia. The plan recognised two existing "entities" under their present constitutions. It said almost nothing about any over-arching institutions. The non-nationalists in London this week rightly stressed that the key issue now is which way the pressures on the negotiators go. Will they be made to think

more about politics or maps, about human rights or land? The different emphasis between the two tendencies reflects a split in the heart of the Bosnian government itself.

President Alija Izetbegovic is a "maps" man with a closer interest in ethnicity. Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister, is more concerned with the question of the constitution.

Only if the discussion moves towards politics and human rights is there any hope of preserving a non-nationalist Bosnia. Without it there will be no chance of encouraging the people of the Bosnian Serb entity, the so-called "Republika Srpska," of moving towards reintegration with the rest of Bosnia, rather than cementing their separation and looking towards Belgrade.

One of the more fascinating aspects of the week's unofficial London meetings was the presence of Milorad Dodik, one of eight dissidents in Karadzic's parliament. Meeting Bosnians from the other side of the war divide for the first time for three years, his message was that majority opinion in the Republika Srpska seems more inclined to reintegration with Bosnia — if only it has the chance to express itself, free from the pressures of war and the tyranny of Madic.

If his analysis is right, it is one more reason why this week's tentative peace around Sarajevo must be followed by a Bosnia-wide ceasefire.

The Guardian

Dealing with global warming

By Dr. Jaser K. Rabadi

GLOBAL WARMING (the increase of surface temperature of the earth) is caused by the increase in the concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere due to various industrial activities and logging of forests. Features of climate change include, but are not limited to, sea level rise, alteration of weather patterns, rainfall and evaporation rates, leading to adverse effects on agriculture, ecosystems, hydrology and water resources, human health and air quality and a wide range of socio-economic impacts.

The historic Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) — signed and ratified by Jordan — is designed to defuse the expected global warming through the adoption of national policies and by taking corresponding measures to mitigate climate change.

As stated in Article 2, the ultimate objective of the Convention is to achieve stabilisation of GHG concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Practically, this means that signatory parties to the Convention, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their national and regional development priorities, shall adopt policies and take corresponding measures to reduce the rate of emission of GHGs into the atmosphere to earlier (pre 1990) levels. Commitments require that all parties:

- Develop, periodically update and make available national inventories (country report) of anthropogenic emissions of GHGs.
- Formulate, implement

publish and regularly update national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

- Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer of technologies, practices and processes to reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of GHGs.

- Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of GHGs including biomass, forests and oceans as well as terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

- Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impact of climate change, develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought, desertification and floods.

- Take climate change considerations into account in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

- Promote and cooperate in scientific research, technological, technical socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to reduce the remaining uncertainties in the cause, effect, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies.

- Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage participation of NGOs in these activities.

- Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage participation of NGOs in these activities.

Dr. Rabadi is director of applied meteorology at the Meteorological Department. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Cancer awareness

To the Editor:

I READ with interest the article by Waleed Sa'di entitled "Why neglect a major killer," (Jordan Times, Sept. 11). I was in Amman for six months last year as the adviser on the commissioning of Al Amal Cancer Centre. When the centre opens, there will be a special research department working, again for six months, at the Red Crescent Hospital. There will be a similar department commissioned here shortly.

This issue will also be an important topic included in the in-service training programme for all staff. It is also matters and the reason why rules and regulations have to be obeyed in a hospital if a high standard of care is to be given to the patients.

(Mrs.) Barbara Johnston
Amman

By Rami G. Khouri

Latin America now welcomes yesterday's 'imperialists'

By Gabriel Escobar and Anne Swanson

THREE DECADES after the Latin American left led a call against cultural imperialism, targeting the United States as its prime purveyor, South America has unashamedly embraced cultural life.

More and more, the Americas are accepting a universal, homogenised popular culture in which touches of Latin rhythm or Spanish accent a dominant North American diet of songs, words and images.

Conflict over the mass media invasion is rare, save for the occasional volley fired in an academic publication, and in striking contrast to the anguished cries of old battles to preserve cultural identity.

When it does occur, the quest is quixotic — the titer at windmills often being someone like Jorge Asis, a respected Argentine author who was lampooned and humiliated from his post as culture minister last year after he suggested it was time to debate the use of English words in advertising.

"They didn't understand a thing," Mr. Asis said of his foes and the "massacre" they led against him.

"There was nothing anachronistic about the proposal. They confused cultural globalisation with the imposition of one language."

"For cultures to speak together, they have to be preserved," he said, treading again on what amounts to dangerous terrain these days. "They have to exist. They have to be mutually enriched. But that does not mean that to sell chocolates, or T-shirts or anything else you use another language."

But in an age of open markets, except to an admittedly small group of Latin American intellectuals, such questions no longer seem worthy of a national, much less regional, debate.

"This country is occupied, and there is no consciousness of that," said Fidel Sepúlveda, an author and folklorist who directs the cultural centre at Chile's Catholic University in Santiago.

"I am not a chauvinist in terms of closing the country, creating a protectionist barrier around what is the Chilean identity, but I do think that people have to stand on their feet and grow from their roots." He added, "we have lowered the curtain on criticism, and so everything that comes from abroad enters without criticism."

"Cultural imperialism" was a key rallying slogan of the Latin American left in the 1960s. The United States exports its mass culture to Latin America, and all the tools that go with it, the argument went, in hopes of creating a market and furthering its ideology. The flow is one way and insidious, and the casualties are cultural identity and economic independence.

But after many in the left took up arms in the 1970s, the cry for cultural protection was lost on the new battlefields of the next two decades. The failures of the guerrilla movements, the subsequent decline of Cuba's influence, the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the collapse of communism, all made the idea of cultural imperialism seem anachronistic, a cold war relic.

Then, as Latin American governments began to adopt free-market economic policies in the last decade, they opened doors to

a new type of American consumerism. Arguably a much stronger version of what had been so feared in the 1960s, this new wave of Yankee influence encountered no opposition.

"On the cultural level, all resistance ended," said Carlos Ares, an author and editor of *La Jirga*, an influential literary magazine in Argentina that claims to be the hemisphere's cultural vanguard. "Intellectuals who once were comparatively well-known as rock idols today are barely seen as a minority. There is resignation in every sense."

At the same time, even critics acknowledge that open markets have energised and refreshed culture in Latin America. Cable television brings news shows from the United States, Europe and neighbours in the region. Argentinians and Chileans, in many ways so different from the rest of Latin America, see and hear Colombian, Mexican and Peruvian talking on television every night. Brazil, which has always stood somewhat apart because of its different language, sells slick and engrossing television soap operas throughout the region.

The Brazilian entertainer Xuxa has become a hemispheric cultural icon, her children's television show having first spread from Brazil to the rest of Latin America and now into the United States as well. Carlos Vives, a Colombian singer, reinterprets Colombian folk songs, which have become hugely popular in Latin America among Latinos in the United States.

The book "Dreaming in Cuban," by the Cuban-American author Cristina García, was translated into Spanish and sold well in South America; "Like Water

for Chocolate," by Laura Esquivel of Mexico, became a best-seller in English translation and then was made into a movie; Gabriel García Márquez, joining Brazil's Jorge Amado, made it to Broadway; a new wave of Chilean authors, most of them women, took up academic posts in the United States.

All these examples give weight to the argument that the countries in the continent have always shared aspects of culture, which spread along the Inca Trail, along missionary routes, or now via cable and satellite. The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, a Communist, had on his writing desk a picture of the most democratic of poets, Walt Whitman. Mr. García Márquez has acknowledged his debt to his "master," William Faulkner.

But Mr. Asis, among others, says he believes the current dominance of American culture in the post-cold war world is different. "The world changed in a very short time," he said. "Suddenly, one world fell, and it was absolutely seduced by the world that imposed itself, that won." He added, "in a world without utopias, the market becomes a new utopia."

This view that the culture of consumerism is a type of generic culture, bringing the continent together for worse or better, is buttressed by the spread of huge shopping centres. Alike in design and in content, these free market temples sell the same clothes (Levi's, Nike), serve the same food (Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Taco Bell) and show the same movies. From Santiago to Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá and Mexico City, these centres, in effect, allow people to travel without leaving home

and to feel at home even when travelling.

"You are outside of time," said Mr. Ares, the editor of *La Jirga*. "The brands are all the same. It is the extraterritoriality of shopping. You could be outside your own country, but when you enter a shopping centre in the United States, you feel that you're in your own land. The flavour is the same."

The concern of intellectuals here and around the region is that the new mass media are so all-encompassing and their message so strong that they will crowd out everything. And in a continent where so many are still poor, the mass culture tends to accentuate differences. As one critic said, it makes a student in Buenos Aires much closer to a counterpart in New York than to someone in a poor province several hundred miles away.

Talk of the information highway as a new cultural link for the region, a hot topic in Latin America these days, is put in perspective by statistics: While the United States boasts 287 computers per 1,000 residents, the highest in the world, Latin America lags far behind. Brazil has only 6 per 1,000; Mexico, a leader, has 17.

The effects of advertising and the rise in fast-food stores have had their own impact. In Argentina, annual per capita consumption of wine has fallen in the last 20 years to 42 litres (11 gallons) from 91, mainly because teenagers have turned almost exclusively to beer, a major advertiser. The domestic sale of Argentina's famed beef has declined overall, but demand for ground beef is up, a shift attributed to the

popularity of hamburgers and the flood of U.S. fast-food chains.

"There are so many things that you lose the possibility of choosing one and staying with it," said Andrea Maturana, 26, a Chilean biologist and writer. "People are less trusting, more worried about themselves, more rushed. It makes me sad to see how few people are willing to fight for what they want."

To fight this tide is to choose your battles, as Mr. Asis learned in his short-lived struggle against the English invasion. It may be impossible to prevent "chiquenitos" from spreading, just as it was impossible in a different age to keep out "OK," a word universally understood throughout Latin America and much of the world.

Perhaps the best example of the difficulty involved in striking a balance in this complex debate is Canada, which has struggled with the encroachment of American culture for nearly its entire history, by most measures to no avail. About 95 per cent of films in movie theatres are American; so is 95 per cent of the revenue generated from movies, according to the Canadian Conference on the Arts, a nationalist group.

About 66 per cent of all books bought, and 80 per cent of the magazines on newsstands, are non-Canadian. American culture prevails in every corner of the second-largest country on Earth. In the Innu Indian community of Davis Inlet in northern Labrador, 1,950 kilometres northeast of Detroit, natives watch Detroit television stations received by satellite.

This penetration continues despite rules, requirements, protections

and subsidies designed to preserve Canadian culture. The measures also are exempted from the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico (and possibly Chile soon). The United States cannot bring an unfair-trade case to the treaty's arbitrators against those cultural protections, although it is allowed to retaliate against them.

Advocates of Canadian culture point to the success of such Canadian-based entertainers as Celine Dion, Bryan Adams and Roch Voisine as evidence that there policies nurture talent that otherwise would be buried under the American avalanche. The fine arts and authors of books also have benefited, they say.

Enforcing cultural protections often is a complex matter, however, and can lead to trade capitulation at home. The government late last year said it would place an 80 per cent excise tax on Sports Illustrated Canada, a spinoff edition of the American magazine that featured a few Canadian articles along with the American ones, and lots of Canadian ads. U.S. officials have threatened retaliation if the proposal becomes law, as predicted later this year.

Canadian officials say these issues probably will become more prevalent in other countries as technology speeds the spread of American cultural products around the world. With an eye to adopting similar strategies, other nations, some of them in Latin America, have asked the Canadian ministry that deals with cultural protection to explain its policies. Still, with the tendency in Latin America to deregulate rather than regulate, Canada's protectionist

model appears far off.

"I believe in cosmopolitanism. I believe in universalism. I believe in tolerance as a value. And I also believe in cultural differences," said Alicia R.W. Camillioni, secretary of academic affairs at the University of Buenos Aires. "The question is, how do you administer cultural conflicts, and how do you produce a process of integration?"

In a hemisphere where the poor and the silent are the majority, old traditions are sometimes overwhelmed by the cacophony of the new, but that does not always mean they are weak or even fading. They just may not be heard.

"Something else will come out of this," said Mr. Ares of the vast number of people whose voices are seldom heard because they are outside the cities. "Something will happen with these masses on the other side of the moat. I don't think it is something that can be communicated through television, and I don't think it will be easy when millions want to be heard."

And even in cities, there is room for new voices. Miss Maturana, the literary sensation in Chile, has become a role model for a generation that perhaps watches too much MTV Latino but still is capable of recognising a native talent, a new voice.

"You take a different step from the rest, and they convert you into a celebrity, and they demand you be a celebrity," she said. "I think perhaps there is a shortage of role models, and for some reason they identify with me, even though I don't feel at all representative."

International Herald Tribune

Japan reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

The King "reviewed (events in) the one year after Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty and affirmed that things are moving steadily and very rapidly," said the source.

Addressing a press conference shortly before he left at the end of a seven-day, five-country visit to the Middle East, Mr. Murayama reaffirmed his country's commitment to backing the Middle East peace process.

"During my visit, I emphasised that Japan was prepared to make a positive, constructive contribution to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Middle East," said Mr. Murayama, on his first visit to the region as prime minister.

He said Japan believed that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit scheduled to be held in Amman next month is a very important event and that the Japanese public and private sectors will play an active role in the conference, with a "high-level" delegation representing the government.

He said Japan was keenly interested in projects related to expanding tourism in the region and to protecting the environment, but that he could give any estimate of the cost of projects in which Japanese participants might take interest when presented at the MENA summit.

However, he affirmed that letting the people enjoy the "dividends of peace" is an essential component of maintaining and consolidating the state of peace in the region, said Mr. Murayama, pledging to continue Japan's efforts to advance other tracks of negotiations in the Middle East peace process.

He referred to Japan's \$200 million aid to the Palestinians since 1993 and grant aid to Jordan worth \$52 million since 1993. He also noted that Japan and Jordan on Sunday signed agreements under which Japan would provide about \$11.6 million for projects in Jordan — including setting up a centre to fight marine pollution at Aqaba.

According to the source, the \$400 million in Japanese aid that Jordan expects to receive before March 1996

include "more than \$200 million" in grant aid as well as loans to finance two bridges across the River Jordan — King Hussein Bridge that connects Jordan with the West Bank and the Sheikh Hussein Bridge which links the Kingdom with Israel — and several other projects which are now under study.

The additional \$200 million announced by Mr. Murayama will involve "non-project loans" — meaning that the credit would be available as co-financing with credits that the IMF and World Bank extend to Jordan along with other parties.

At the press conference, Mr. Murayama did not directly address a question what was the status of a Jordanian request for \$500 million to help its balance of payments.

"We will study what kind of assistance we can provide," he said.

He also declined direct comment on whether Japan was considering any formula under which it could reduce the \$1.8 billion debts — in yen loans — that Amman owes Tokyo, particularly that the rise of the strength of the Japanese currency had added to the burden in dollar terms.

But a senior Japanese source reiterated Tokyo's

policy of not offering debt relief and development loans to any country at the same time and that in Jordan's case, Japan stood ready to make more funds available to the Kingdom.

"The net intake in real terms of Japanese assistance to Jordan outweighs the Kingdom's obligations of repaying the debts, including principal and interest," according to the source.

Mr. Murayama arrived here after visits to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Israel and the Gaza Strip on a Middle East trip that Japanese officials described as a reflection of Tokyo's firm interest in following up the Arab-Israeli peace process and in assuming a higher-profile political role in the region, with which it has traditionally maintained close relations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, planning, and industry and trade attended the King's talks with Mr. Murayama, who was accompanied by senior Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry officials as well as the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura.

Jordan pays tribute to Japan

(Continued from page 1)

"Jordan Week" in Japan in an effort to familiarise Japanese with Jordan and its people.

Senior Japanese officials have described the event as having left behind a tremendous impact in Japan, which now intends to organise a similar event in Jordan.

The Crown Prince also noted that it was during the May visit, which also included political discussions on the Middle East situation and Jordanian-Japanese relations, that he had presented a request for \$500 million in long-term loans to help the Kingdom support its balance of payments.

French minister arrives

(Continued from page 1)

process encourages both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government in these negotiations," Mr. De Charette told a news conference he held jointly with Mr. Masa. "We hope that these negotiations will bring fruitful, positive results."

On the situation in Bosnia, Mr. Masa said that "as long as this (Western peace) initiative has been accepted in

French minister arrives

(Continued from page 1)

principle by the Bosnian government, it should be given a full chance."

He added: "We will not abandon the Bosnian people if this initiative does not lead to a solution to this problem."

Earlier Monday, Mr. De Charette held talks with Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Arab League.

French minister arrives

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres flew briefly to occupied Jerusalem on Monday for consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Arafat, meanwhile, met in Gaza City with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama.

Mr. Murayama promised another \$200 million in aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Tokyo has already donated \$200 million.

French minister arrives

(Continued from page 1)

fusion in implementation," he said.

Israel said agreement had been reached on the issues of water and Palestinian elections (see page 12).

PLO and Israeli officials said there was a problem over releasing about 5,000 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. A PLO official said agreement had been reached on the first stage of a release of Palestinian prisoners.

The first to be freed would be women, juveniles, the elderly and men who had spent more than 10 years in jail or completed two-thirds of their sentences, said the official.

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ROME DAYS

Gifts galore and all the news fit to print

By Andrew Gumbel

LIKE MOST journalists, I have an unmanageably large pile of old newspapers sitting in one corner of the living-room, seemingly reproducing all by themselves and threatening, like the monster cake-mix that spills over the baking tin and out of the kitchen in Woody Allen's *Sleeper*, to take on a sinister life of their own.

These days, though, I am rapidly building up a second, even more unmanageable pile of encyclopaedia extracts, medical dictionaries, video cassettes of classic Italian films and any number of gimmicks, games and educational experiences. This is the junk — some of it welcome, some of it not — that is part and parcel of the promotion-crazy Italian press these days.

The Italian newspaper market is hurting (perhaps not as badly as the British market, but still hurting), and this extraordinary profusion of give-aways is the result. Thus, thanks to the Saturday edition of *L'Unità*, the party newspaper of the left-wing PDS, I now have my very own copies of Pasolini's *Decameron*, Antonioni's *Blow Up* (dubbed into Italian, but then you can't have it all) and any number of glorious comedies starring the likes of Totò, Alberto Sordi, Vittorio Gassman and Roberto Benigni.

Thanks to the more business-minded *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, I have seen more than I will ever need to know about the labyrinthine world of Italian personal finance, pension plans and job opportunities, and can look forward to an autumn of erudition at the hands of their in-house encyclopaedia, co-sponsored by a state-owned bank, the telephone company and the railway company.

To cap them all, though, I can turn to *La Repubblica*, which recently lost its position as Italy's best-selling newspaper to the *Corriere*, and is now anxious to win it back. Three times a week I receive extracts of the Zanichelli encyclopaedia and can wow my

friends with such trivia as the name of the architect of those nobly bits on the top of the Chrysler building in New York: W Van Allen.

Then on Thursdays there is the rock and music supplement *Musica*, while on Fridays there are more videos, this time of American films. Last week it was Woody Allen's *Radio Days*, this week Steven Spielberg's mega-flop *Hook*. *La Repubblica's* sister publication, the magazine *L'Espresso*, also has jumped on the video bandwagon with a series entitled "Forbidden Classics."

It's a curious kind of circulation battle. In Britain, newspapers have cut their prices; in Italy, the prices actually go up on days when there are goodies on offer.

L'Unità, for example, costs 6,000 lire (£2.40), or four times its usual cover price, when it has a film to give away. The strategy obviously works in one sense, because circulation goes up by as much as 50 per cent, depending on the newspaper and the gimmick involved.

But it also begs the question whether people consider their purchase to be a newspaper with cheap goodies attached, or rather cheap goodies with a newspaper thrown in for free, much like the clumps of basil and parsley that stallholders give their favourite customers at the vegetable market. *L'Unità* may be a sell-out on Saturdays, but its circulation has remained static the rest of the week.

"This absurd policy of give-aways will end up killing the newspaper market, with grave consequences for the freedom of the press," says Andrea Alois, deputy editor of the satirical magazine *Cuore*.

A recent edition of his publication "gave away" a free journal with every copy, offering to help readers with the shopping or the housework. "What will they come up with next?" Mr. Alois added. "Potatoes by the kilo? A right shoe one week and a left shoe the next?"

The real reason for the give-aways, and the circula-

tion battle behind them, is a growing inferiority complex among newspapers towards the real force in the Italian media, television.

It is perhaps no accident that videos are the promotional vehicle of choice — they enable papers to transmit their very own images, just like Silvio Berlusconi and the state broadcaster RAI.

In one way, *L'Unità* and *La Repubblica* are directly imitating Mr. Berlusconi, who has for years been using popular feature films to attract viewers to his three private stations. Mr. Berlusconi's other output is largely lurid drivel to pass the time in between advertising breaks and puffs for his political ambitions.

Some mainstream newspapers already have edged downmarket in an attempt to shore up declining circulation figures; they will have to be careful that promotion mania does not drag them slowly into the gutter.

The Independent

rights of the city's Palestinians.

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories, also known as B'tselem, said in a report Israel had failed during nearly 30 years of occupation to protect Hebron's Palestinians and leaving Jewish settlers in the city would only exacerbate human rights violations.

The B'tselem report, on the 18 months since settler Baruch Goldstein massacred 30 Palestinians at Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque in February 1994, said the movement of Palestinians had been hampered by 42 roadblocks, including 10 manned by Israeli soldiers.

It said 26 Palestinians had been killed by security forces, many injured and the city had been subject to repeated curfews.

"B'tselem urges the government of Israel to dismantle the settlement in the city of Hebron and remove Israeli security forces from the city," the group said in a report entitled "impossible co-existence."

Palestinians moved municipal offices into a building next to a downtown Jewish seminary in Hebron on Monday.

Bosnia split along U.S. plans

(Continued from page 1)

avoid further bombing.

Colonel Vernon said the Serbs had "made a substantial start" at withdrawing their tanks and big guns and had removed about 160 artillery pieces by Sunday night.

But General Rupert Smith, the U.N. commander in Bosnia, was "not yet convinced" that total, unimpeded freedom of movement has been achieved around and into Sarajevo, Col. Vernon added.

Mr. Holbrooke, who brokered the Sarajevo deal, said the future of the Bosnian war could well be determined "in the next few days and hours."

NATO's southern command in Naples said the pull-out of tanks, artillery and mortar was going "relatively smoothly," with half the weapons gone, and a spokesman added:

"If things are going on as they are doing it looks like more peace talks this week rather than air strikes."

Bosnian Serb officials also appeared confident that they could avoid further NATO intervention. One said: "I don't think we'll see more air strikes."

U.N. troops were counting the guns as they left the exclusion zone and set up observation posts on its perimeter to monitor Serb compliance.

Spokesman said the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) still had more to do before the U.N. and NATO were fully satisfied, although it has already been possible for the U.N. to reopen Sarajevo airport and road routes for aid convoys to the city.

U.N. concern switched to the fighting in the northwest which has set off a tide of Serb refugees and dramatically altered the territorial balance in Bosnia after 3-1/2 years of fighting.

Serbs, who until recently controlled 70 per cent of Bosnia, were thrown into disarray by Muslim-Croat assaults which captured towns and swathes of soil in the northwest and the central Ozern region.

Serb media said on Monday that defence lines had stabilised around Ozern and Banja Luka and denied Bosnian government claims to have captured the towns of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad.

Experts divided over which way dollar, yen will go

TOKYO (Agencies) — Will the dollar go up or down? even the experts can't agree.

The correct answer could mean huge profits or losses for everyone from large electronics companies that depend on export earnings to institutional investors trying to make money for mom-and-pop pensioners.

As the U.S. currency has risen in recent weeks to 15-month highs against the Japanese yen, currency traders, financial analysts and company executives have increasingly argued over whether the rise will continue.

"A lot of movement depends on factors that are very hard to predict, like what the central banks are going to do, or what monthly reports are going to say," Dan O'Keefe, a market analyst at Merrill Lynch, said Monday.

Traders' time frame is "days, if not hours, so it's really hard to say how they are going to push the currency," he added.

The dollar Monday was hovering near 104 yen, with traders saying they were unsure whether to believe financial officials of Germany, Japan and the United States who say they want the dollar to keep rising.

A survey by the Japan Centre for International Finance, a market analysis company, showed that experts at 43 stock brokerages, financial firms and manufacturing companies were split on where the dollar would be six months from now, according to reports Monday.

The survey, conducted last week as the dollar rose, found that some believed the dollar would fall to 90 yen by December, while others were predicting a rise to 110.

That 20-yen gap, equivalent to less than 20 cents at Monday's exchange rates, may not sound like much. But on currency markets, the dollar is said to "soar" or "plunge" when it moves just one yen.

And, perhaps even more important for Japan's economy, the difference between a dollar worth 90 and 110 yen is the difference between profit and loss for a large number of Japanese companies.

A recent survey by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the most widely read economic daily, showed Japan's export industries — which often determine the health of the economy — could break even with the dollar at just over 95 yen.

When the dollar sank below 80 yen in April, a historic low, virtually every Japanese exporter said it could not make a profit, because sales made overseas would be worth so few yen.

The exporters try to protect themselves against fluctuations by buying currency futures, but buying those futures is an exercise in trying to predict where the currencies will go.

With the experts disagreeing, those predictions get very difficult. "Everyone is wavering," said Tomohiro Aoki of the finance centre, who generally confirmed the reports about the survey.

The market sentiment is for the dollar to keep rising... but the structural issues, such as the U.S. savings rate and Japan's current account surplus, haven't changed," he said.

Meanwhile, Japan's chief cabinet secretary Koken Nosaka Monday welcomed the dollar's recent gains against the yen but said the Japanese government would like to see the U.S. currency appreciate further.

"I think 108 yen is a yardstick," the official government spokesman told a news conference. "The trade minister says 108 yen is the break-even point for small and medium-sized companies."

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister at the international trade and industry ministry, later said that exchange rates were still in the process of reversal.

"We have not set a target, but we can say that the yen is still in a turnaround against the dollar," he told a regular news conference, denying that Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto wanted to see the dollar at 108 yen.

"There have been reports earlier that chief cabinet secretary Nosaka wants the dollar at 108 yen, but 108 yen was simply the break-even point for small and mid-sized companies according to our research," Mr. Tsutsumi said.

Japan trade surplus falls again

TOKYO (R) — Japan's giant trade surplus shrank in August for the second straight month, and, seeing the unexpected drop, delighted officials forecast that the much-welcomed declining trend was likely to continue.

The finance ministry announced Monday that the nation's customs-cleared trade surplus fell in August to \$5.97 billion from a revised \$6.05 billion the same month last year, and also fell against the July figure of \$9.43 billion.

Exports rose 12.6 per cent to \$35.22 billion and imports grew 15.9 per cent to \$29.26 billion.

Tokyo's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell to \$2.94 billion from \$3.48 billion a year earlier, dropping for the

third month in a row.

The figures were well below the expectations of private economists, who had predicted the surplus would actually rise to between \$6.1 billion and \$8.0 billion.

Economists had expected the surplus to increase due to sluggish crude oil imports and a rebound in car exports, along with the lingering effects of the strong yen.

The surplus had shrunk sharply in July as the strong yen started to take its toll on exports, narrowing to \$9.43 billion from \$12.43 a year earlier. A yen rise slows down Japanese exports, because the strong yen inflates the prices of Japanese goods in terms of foreign currencies, and makes them less competitive.

But in fact the August

trade figures showed stronger growth in imports than in exports.

"The export figure was low, lower than expected, perhaps on lower demand in the United States. But it is hard to see if this is the start of a trend without seeing what happens next month," said Hidetoshi Tsuchiya of Sanwa Research Institute.

The finance ministry was more optimistic that the trade surplus was on the decline.

"Japan's trade surplus is on a declining trend. I hope the surplus will narrow further with the steady implementation of government steps, like the package of measures to stem the yen's rise announced in April," a finance ministry official told reporters.

Egyptian reserves in biggest fall for four years

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's massive foreign reserves, the pride of its economic reform programme, have slipped by between \$300 million and \$400 million since the middle of the year, a source in the central bank said Sunday.

Foreign exchange dealers gave different explanations — the narrowing gap between dollar and Egyptian pound interest rates, an increase in imports, or residual concern that the government might engineer a devaluation.

The reserves stood at between \$18.2 billion and \$18.3 billion at the end of June

1995. By about Aug. 20, they had fallen to \$17.9 billion, the source said, quoting central bank figures.

It is the biggest fall in foreign reserves since the government floated the Egyptian pound in October 1991. At that time they stood at a little over \$3 billion.

The main incentive for Egyptians to switch from dollars to pounds has been the high interest rates on pound deposits, which have at times gone above the 18 per cent mark.

But in exchange they take on a devaluation risk, because of the chronic discrepancy between U.S. and Egyptian inflation.

In practice people with Egyptian deposits have fared well over the years, losing an average of less than half of one per cent a year to exchange rate slippage.

The dealers said the equation had changed as dollar interest rates rose and Egyptian rates fell. Banks are paying depositors nine to 10 per cent on pounds and 5.5 per cent on dollars.

"At those rates people don't think it's worth the risk to bring more dollars in," one dealer said.

"We have had a steady stream of people switching into dollars. They can't be

sure what the government is going to do with the pound," said another.

"There was a rumour that the pound would fall to 4.5 (pounds to the dollar) by the end of the year. It doesn't look like it will happen but it's taken a toll," he added.

The pound has survived a succession of devaluation scares, prompted often by the imbalance of talks between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF has argued, so far to no avail, that the strength of the pound — now at 3.4 to the dollar against 3.31 in 1991 — is obstructing the govern-

ment's campaign to promote exports.

The government has argued back with figures showing steady growth in now-oil exports. These doubled in value in the first quarter of this year, to 2.159 million pounds (\$635 million), against 1.081 million (\$318 million) in the same period of 1994.

But the cost of imports has been increasing faster, adding to the country's chronic trade deficit.

Despite the fall, the reserves remain enough to cover more than 20 months of imports — way above the minimum safety level.

World Bank discussing debt forgiveness for poorest countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — World Bank officials are discussing a possible multi-billion dollar pool to help pay off some of the \$30.5 billion owed by the world's poorest countries to international bodies.

The bulk of the help would go to Africa.

A bank statement said a plan had been drawn up for informal discussions by the bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions. The statement emphasized that the plan was not official bank policy and had not been formally submitted to the countries that own the bank.

The statement was issued in response to a report in the Financial Times of London that said a \$11 billion fund was being proposed by the bank to pay off \$400 million a year of principal and interest over the first five years and smaller amounts afterwards.

The bank said the proposal being discussed does not represent official bank policy or the views of its new president, James Wolfensohn.

"Mr. Wolfensohn has repeatedly made it clear that he wants the bank to take a tough look at whether there are feasible options for multi-

lateral debt reduction. This paper was a part of that process," the statement added.

Some of the poorest countries have made no payments for years on what they owe the bank and fund.

Rebecca Robboy, a bank press officer, said the question of debt reduction has been under discussion for some time. More affluent governments, including the United States, already have forgiven billions of dollars worth of debt owed by poorer governments.

Officials estimated that only some poor countries would benefit from a debt-reduction plan, since it would apply only to from 10 to 15 governments that are carrying out satisfactory plans to put their finances in order. The countries were not named.

One source with knowledge of the proposal said it did not call for direct debt forgiveness by the bank and fund, which have a long-standing policy of not writing off debt. But if they contributed to the planned pool, they would, in effect, be paying off some of the debt to themselves.

U.N. agency sees slower growth, higher unemployment in L. America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Latin America's global economic growth in 1995 will stay below two per cent, down from 3.6 per cent the year before, a United Nations agency has said.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLA), said that as a result of the slower growth, 1995 will also show higher rates of unemployment throughout the region.

On the bright side, the Santiago-based ECLA reported firm progress in the fight against inflation and predicted the first regional trade surplus in a decade.

The report is based on the first half of the year economic performances by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, which account for nearly 90 per cent of the region's gross national product (GNP). Some data from other countries was also considered.

The region's overall figures were greatly influenced by the financial crisis in Mexico

in late 1994 and its strong effects on Argentina because the two countries are among the region's largest economies, ECLA said.

It noted, however, that "the crisis did not spread to the rest of the nations in the region."

The Mexican crisis, the report said, was a clear warning to other countries that external events may have strong effects on them.

Chile and Peru will lead the countries with the highest GNP growth in 1995, both reaching seven per cent or more.

Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela will register no growth. Mexico will close the year with a fall in its GNP. Although the growth in the other countries will be between three and five per cent, the global figure will be affected by the poor performance in Argentina and Mexico, according to ECLA.

The slower growth is resulting in higher unemployment rates and deteriorated salaries. Especially affected are

Argentina, where unemployment stands at 18.6 per cent, Venezuela 11 per cent and Uruguay 10.5 per cent. Brazil, Chile and Colombia fared slightly better, according to ECLA.

In Mexico, unemployment jumped from 5.8 per cent this year from only 3.6 per cent in 1994.

The region's average inflation is dropping during 1995, aided by the success in the Brazilian stabilisation programme. From August 1994 to August 1995 the global annual inflation rate fell from 1,120 per cent to 25 per cent, its lowest level in 25 years.

Six countries — Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama — have one-digit inflation rates, while only Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela are still trying to curb rates above 40 per cent.

The region will almost certainly close the year with its first global trade surplus in a decade, due mainly to a 20 per cent increase in the value of its exports pushed by higher prices of the key commodities. At the same time, imports are expected to grow only by eight per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get your duties handled early this morning and later today show patience when others expect big things of you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go to the beauty or barber shop of your choice early today and then get at your duties in a calm and poised fashion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get the situation at home righted before you put some talent to work, even though the problem may arise with it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle your outside business affairs well before you try to handle that situation at home this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get your budget in order before you go out to handle some problematical affair today, and be skilled at it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are concerned with the self this morning, and rightly so, and you can go after personal aims and get them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good morning to plan for the future, but tonight you may run up against stumbling blocks in the path of your progress.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can go after the personal wishes which mean much to you this morning, and get good results. Show your mate you are loyal.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get at your career activities early since later today you will have to handle personal problems. Don't expect much help from friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try a new way to gain a cherished wish, and later today handle some worldly affair most carefully.

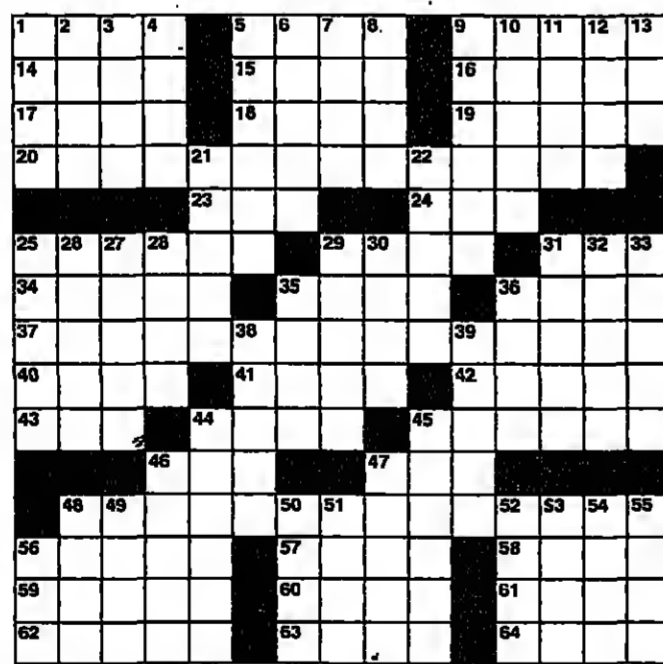
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to find some way of getting the one you love to be more interested in you. Make sure to pay your bill on time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An associate can give you fine suggestions today, so listen carefully to them. Improve relations with your mate.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Frank L. Jackson

- ACROSS
1 Disappear gradually
5 Indescent gem
9 Fragment
14 In — (bored by sameness)
15 Gumshoe's concern
16 Bar of old movies
17 Stead
18 London gallery
19 Prepared
20 Gourmet salad fruits
23 Single
24 Intuitive latters
25 Work by Swift, e.g.
29 Precludes
31 Bikini section
34 Hold tight
35 Bounces over water
36 Crooked
37 Pogo the possum's milieu
40 Fire, pref.
41 Consumer
42 Reef builder
43 Overhead railways
44 Luge
45 Moon goddess
46 Colloid
47 Sly
48 Insincere
56 Large herbivora
57 Footnote word
58 Sugar source
59 Inject animation
60 Breakfast, e.g.
61 Spoken
62 Mortimer the dummy
63 "Fider"
64 — contendere



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- DOWN
2 FDR's dog
3 Seed cover
4 Small case
5 Motor fuel word
6 Dish
7 Self: pref.
8 Suggestive gaze
9 Accent
10 Tawdry
11 Raise
12 Totals
13 Wages
21 Deep ravine
22 Intrinsically
25 Range
26 Certain chemical
27 Rows
28 Pertinent data
29 Made a pie
30 Mimic
31 Strident sound
32 Nose or candle
33 Winesap, for one
35 Ply with medicine
35 Trust
38 Certain card game term
39 Fragrance
44 First also-ran?
45 Handsome
46 Hopeless one
47 Entreaties
48 Chatter
49 Tear apart forcibly
50 Coin
51 Brainchild
52 Poetically black
53 Of flying
54 Genuine
55 French town
56 Literary monogram

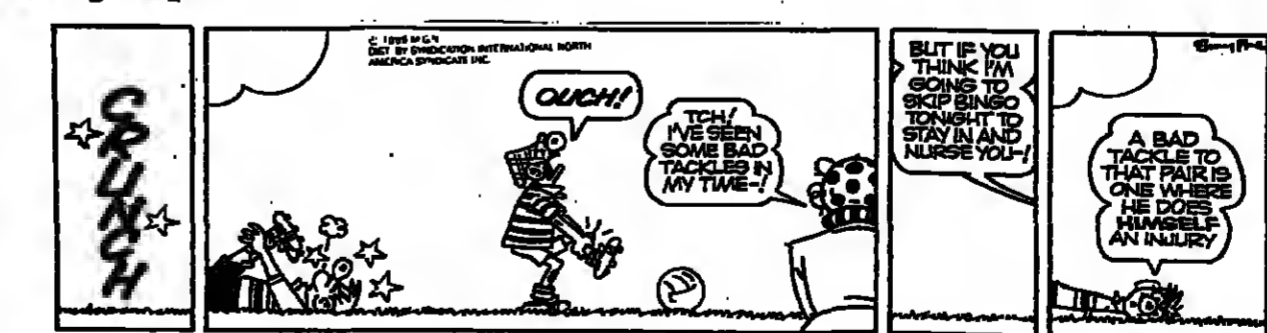
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



AC Milan remain unbeaten; PSG lose 1st match

ROME (Agencies) — Liberian-born striker George Weah tallied once in each half to rally AC Milan to a 2-1 win over AS Roma Sunday night, keeping race with Juventus of Turin atop the Italian first division.

After Argentine international Abel Balbo gave Roma the lead off a free kick in the 15th minute, Weah took advantage of a defensive lapse to equalise in first-half injury time and then scored the game-winner in the 77th.

Milan improved to 3-0-0 in the league, same as defending champion Juventus, which earlier Sunday defeated Vicenza 1-0 on Gianluca Vialli's first-half goal.

Juve, which has opened the season against three promoted clubs, and Milan have won two matches in cup play for perfect records overall.

The Turin side leads in the Serie A standing on goal differential.

Lazio of Rome lost its share of first place in a 3-3 draw at Bari as the home side's Igor Protti scored three times to take over the league scoring lead with five goals.

AC Parma, expected to challenge for the title, suffered a 3-0 loss at Sampdoria of Genoa and slid to 1-1-1.

Atalanta of Bergamo also fell from the ranks of the unbeaten in a 3-1 loss to Napoli, which shares second place with Lazio.

In other matches: Fiorentina beat Cagliari 3-1; Inter of Milan drew 0-0 with Piacenza; Udinese edged Cremonese 3-2; and Padova and Torino drew 1-1.

Milan 2, Roma 1: At Rome, where Roma has not beaten Milan since 1985, the hosts dominated the early going and Balbo — whose 22 goals last season were second in the league — fired in a low drive from the left side on the penalty area for the lead.

But an error on the stroke of halftime by Roma captain Giuseppe Giamini, playing his 300th Serie A match,

allowed Milan to draw level. Thinking the ball had crossed the end-line, and waiting for the referee to stop the action, Giamini watched motionless as Montenegrin playmaker Dejan Savicevic passed to an open Weah, who scored from 8 metres.

Weah, acquired in the offseason from Paris St. Germain, then hit his third of the season, breaking into the open and dribbling past Brazilian defender Aldair before putting the ball through the legs of charging goalkeeper Giovanni Cervone.

Juventus 1, Vicenza 0: At Turin, Vialli hammered a low drive from close range in the 21st minute for his third goal in two matches. Vicenza (1-0-2) clogged its backfield in a successful attempt at slowing Juve's attack, which had 15 goals in four prior matches.

Bari 3, Lazio 3: At Bari, Protti — who has all of his club's five goals this season — scored off headers in the eighth and 48th minutes and off an individual run in the 14th to stake the hosts to a 3-1 lead. Dutch winger Aron Winter had deposited a loose ball in the 43rd for Lazio (2-1-0).

The Romans, playing with just 10 men after the 45th-minute expulsion of rookie defender Guerino Gottardi, rallied for the draw behind Croatian striker Alen Boksic. Pierluigi Casiraghi converted Boksic's precise feed in the 56th, and Italian international striker Giuseppe Signori levelled the score three minutes later from the penalty spot after the Croat was fouled. Bari is 0-2-1.

Sampdoria 3, Parma 0: At Genoa, where Parma has not beaten Sampdoria (1-2-0) since 1931, midfielder Christian Karembeu scored twice. Karembeu, from new Caledonia, redirected veteran forward Roberto Mancini's cross in the 21st minute, and then doubled in the 73rd, running

on to forward Claudio Bellucci's low pass. Bellucci's header made it 3-0 one minute from time.

Napoli 3, Atalanta 1: At Bergamo, Napoli (2-1-0) rallied from an early deficit on the strength of domination at midfield. Christian Vieri bearded in a goal in the second minute to put Atalanta (1-1-1) ahead.

But forward Renato Buso equalised in the 30th, slamming the ball in off the post, and striker Carmelo Imbriani made it 2-1 for Napoli off French midfielder Alain Boghossian's cross in the 63rd. Forward Massimo Agostini's second goal of the season iced the match in the 74th.

Florentina 3, Cagliari 1: At Florence, forward Francesco Balzano's goals in the second and 15th minutes — off assists from Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta and Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa — sent Florentina (2-0-1) to its sixth straight home win over Cagliari (0-0-3).

In the 17th, Florentina stopper Lorenzo Amoroso's own goal allowed Cagliari to get within 2-1, but he redeemed himself by scoring off a rebound just four minutes later. Cagliari is the only Serie A team with three losses after three rounds.

Udinese 3, Cremonese 2: At Udine, all the scoring came in the second half, with the hosts rapid-firing three goals in eight minutes and then holding on for the win. German striker Oliver Bierhoff directed the Udinese attack, scoring from 3 metres in the 61st minute, feeding forward Paolo Poggi for a running left-footed strike in the 66th and then heading home Giovanni Stroppa's cross in the 69th.

Cremonese (0-1-2) came back behind Riccardo Maspero's penalty kick in the 76th and Slovenian winger Matjaz Florjancic's goal

three minutes later.

Inter of Milan 0, Piacenza 0: At Milan, Inter's woeful attack could not generate opportunities against the League-worst defense of Piacenza (0-1-2). Inter is 1-1-1.

Padova 1, Torino 1: At Padova, Dutch midfielder Michel Kreek equalised for the hosts (0-1-2) in the 36th minute. Midfielder Antonio Bernardini's left-footed drive from the edge of the penalty area had put Torino (1-1-1) up after 14 minutes.

PSG slump to first defeat
In Paris, Paris St Germain stumbled to their first defeat of the season after an own goal from international defender Bruno N'Gotty on Sunday but stayed top of the French soccer league.

Barlow was denied on an 88th-minute equaliser by Mark Crossley's alert save.

The loss left Everton with seven points.

In the first division, Barnsley and Sheffield United played a 2-2 draw, and West Brom defeated Birmingham 1-0.

Walsb international Nathan Blake saved Sheffield United with two goals in the second half to salvage the 2-2 draw. Steve Davis put Barnsley ahead 1-0 in the 9th minute and Alan Kelly made it 2-0 in the 35th.

Alan Hunt scored in the 29th minute for West Brom to give them 15 points, but behind league leaders Millwall and Leicester.

Oviedo upset Real Madrid
In Madrid, Antonio Rivas made a long strike early in the second half Sunday to give Oviedo a 3-2 victory over Real Madrid and hand the defending champion its second surprise upset in two weeks.

On the other side of town, Atletico de Madrid fans had a pleasant surprise as their club held the league's top spot for the second straight week — after a four year hiatus — following its Saturday 2-0 victory at Athletic de Bilbao.

Last season's top scorer, Chilean Ivan Zamorano, did his best for Real Madrid's home crowd scoring in the game's first minute on a centering pass from Jose Amavisca.

Oviedo's Oliverio "oli" Alvarez tied it up eight minutes later.

Zamorano came back with a second goal on a pass from new acquisition Freddy Rincon of Colombia a half hour into the game but Alvarez tied it up again one minute before the end of the first half.

Three minutes into the second half, Rivas won the game for Oviedo in spectacular fashion on a direct kick from 40 metres away.

Last week, Real Madrid added another Sunday to give defending champion Panathinaikos Athens a 2-1 victory over crosstown Athinaikos away and a three-way lead in the Greek first division soccer league.

Off Crete and Olympiakos Piraeus both scored victories and share the prime position with Panathinaikos with 9 points each after three games.

Off trounced Larissa 6-3 away and Olympiakos beat newcomer Paniliakos 3-0 at home.

Former Olympic champion dead at 79
MALMO, Sweden (AP) — Erik Nilsson, who won two Olympic soccer medals and a bronze in the 1950 World Cup for Sweden, died this weekend, Swedish news agency TT said Sunday.

He was 79. Nilsson, one of the top defenders in Swedish soccer history, made 57 international appearances between 1938 and 1952. He was a member of the team that captured the 1948 Olympic title in London and won a bronze four years later in Helsinki, Finland, before retiring from the national team.

Two years earlier, he played for Sweden's bronze-medal winning team in Brazil. Nilsson never played club soccer abroad. He spent most of his career with Malmö FF (600-plus games) in southern Sweden. Nilsson's 1948 Olympic teammate Gunnar Nordahl, the all-time leading scorer for AC Milan, died Friday at age 73 in Italy.

Senegalese beats Hlasek
BORDEAUX (AP) — Yaya Dombia of Senegal became the first pro player to win two tournaments as a qualifier as he beat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Passing Shot tournament Sunday.

The 32-year-old Dombia also took the Lyon tournament in 1988 as a qualifier, having to win three matches to get into the main draw of 32. He entered this year ranked 766th and was 282nd at the beginning of the week. "I might not have the power of these younger guys but maybe more experience," Dombia said. "At 20 you want to break mountains. At 30 you rather try to move them a little."

There have been 25 players who have won tournaments as qualifiers in the pro era but Dombia is the first to repeat. This week he sailed through eight matches without losing a set and beat three seeded players along the way — No. 5 David Prinosil of Germany, No. 8 Lionel Roux of France and No. 7 Hlasek. The victory was worth \$54,000 to Dombia more than a quarter of his total career prize money to date of \$195,484. This year he had lost four previous matches in the main draws of tournaments before his success at Bordeaux.

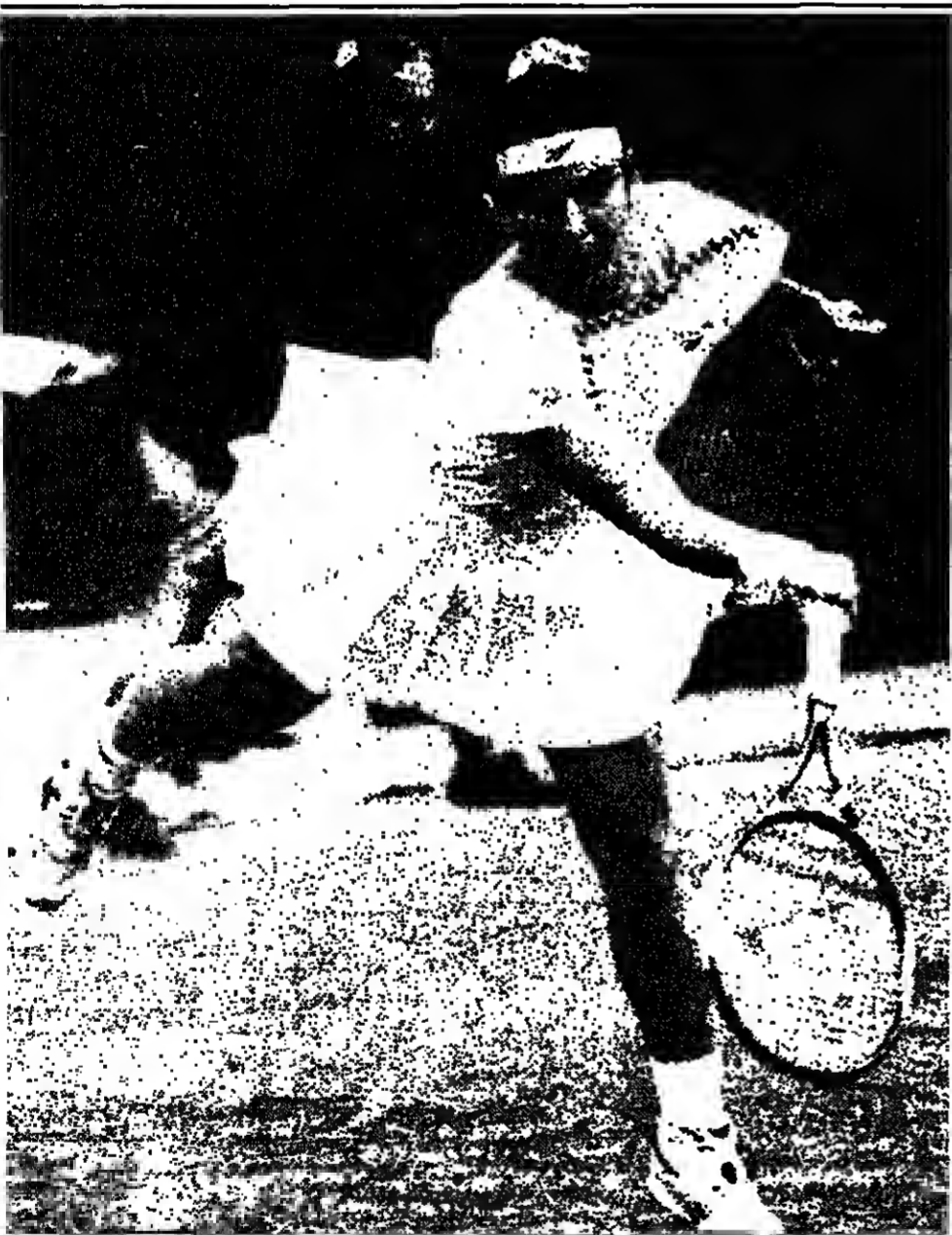
Tanui, McColgan take half marathon
SOUTH SHIELDS, England (AP) — Moses Tanui and Liz McColgan took the Bupa half marathon Sunday, showing the form that has established the two as the best in the world at the 13.1-mile (21.1-kilometre) distance.

The 30-year-old Kenyan, who holds the world best at the distance of 59 minutes 47 seconds, won in a time of 1 hour 36 seconds, defeating three-time Bupa winner and world half marathon champion Benson Masaya of Kenya. Masaya finished second in 1:01:59. The former 10,000-metre world champion, Tanui moved away from Masaya at the 5-mile (8-kilometre) mark when Masaya was unable to give him across the rolling course. Tanui, after a so-so season, is pointing toward the marathon in next year's olympics in Atlanta.

McColgan, in the midst of a comeback after being plagued by injuries for several years, pulled away from Ethiopia's Fatuma Roba in the last mile to win in 1:11:42. McColgan and Roba ran stride for stride from the mid-point of the race after dropping Portugal's Manuela Machado, the world marathon champion who finished third. McColgan holds the world best for the half marathon at 1:07:11.

Italy's Cadalora beats Doohan
RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Italy's Luca Cadalora drove a mistake-free race and beat season points leader Michael Doohan by 4 1/2 seconds Sunday, claiming the 500cc division of the Brazilian Grand Prix. Doohan, who complained about the refurbished 5.088-kilometre (3.16-mile) Nelson Piquet raceway saying rain had made it dangerous, on Sunday only blamed himself. "Our own team was our worst enemy," Doohan said. "And (Cadalora's) Yamaha team did a great job of getting their motorcycle ready. I tried to win on a Cadalora error, but he simply didn't make one."

Doohan sat out Friday's qualifying to protest the conditions at the track, which had not been host to any kind of competition in years and was making its debut following repairs. Two races remain in the 13-event season. In the 250cc division, Italian, Dorian Rombini won on his Honda, beating countryman Max Biaggi and his Aprilia by 1 1/2 seconds. Late, Masaki Tokudome of Japan beat Italian Gianluigi Scalvini by .204 of a second to win the 125cc division.



Arantxa Sanchez

Sanchez set for revenge

TOKYO (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario could get revenge for her defeat at the U.S. Open by Mary Jo Fernandez in the final of this week's Nishinichi in Tokyo. The Spaniard, runner-up in the first three Grand Slam women's tennis events this season, lost to Fernandez in the fourth round of the U.S. Open two weeks ago. A re-match could come in the final of the 430,000 dollar Tokyo tournament as Fernandez, the sixth seed, is in the bottom half of the draw, with Japan's Kimiko Date, third seed, Mary Pierce of France, second seed, and American Amy Frazier, seventh seed. Pierce, the Australian Open champion who crashed to Frazier in the

U.S. Open third round, could get a re-match in the quarter-finals if the seeding goes to plan. Sanchez starts in the second round against Lea Chirardi-Rubbi of France or a qualifier. She will then take on Naoko Sawamatsu if the Japanese eighth seed can beat American Marianne Werdel-Wittemyer. Also in the upper half are fourth-seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, who captured her first major title as 15-year-old at the Japan Open in 1985, and fifth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport. Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the 1993 champion here and the only player to defeat world number one Steffi Graf this season, also competes.

Surin wins 100, 200 metres

KOBE (AP) — Canadian Bruny Surin won both the men's 100- and 200-metre dashes, beating American Dennis Mitchell by about one-quarter second each time Sunday in the Kobe International Track and Field meet.

Surin won the 100 in 10.11 seconds to 10.36 by Mitchell. On Friday, he had run 10.02 but placed second at that distance behind Britain's Linford Christie (10.00) in the Toto International soper meet in Tokyo.

He took the 200 here in 20.42, with Mitchell second in 20.70.

American Mark Crear won the 110-metre hurdles in 13.37 seconds.

In the men's 800 metres, Hieham El Guerrouj of Morocco won in 1 minute, 50.16 seconds, his second victory in three days in Japan.

He won the 1,500 metres in 3:40.96 at the Toto meet.

Khalid Boulami of Morocco won the 5,000 metres in 13:31.35.

Baseball-Major League results

American League			
Boston	9	Cleveland	6
Texas	5	Detroit	0
Baltimore	2	New York	0
Toronto	5	Milwaukee	0
Chicago	2	Seattle	1
Kansas City	10	California	8
Oakland	4	Minnesota	1

National League

Houston	5	Montreal	3
Pittsburgh	5	San Francisco	4
New York	5	Philadelphia	2
Los Angeles	8	St. Louis	0
Florida	17	Colorado	0
San Diego	11	Chicago	3
Atlanta	4	Cincinnati	1

National Football League results

Buffalo	20	Indianapolis	14
St. Louis	31	Carolina	10
Arizona	20	Detroit	17
Green Bay	14	NY Giants	6
Cleveland	14	Houston	7
Kansas City	23	Oakland	17 (OT)
Atlanta	27	New Orleans	24 (OT)
San Diego	27	Philadelphia	21
Denver	38	Washington	31
NY Jets	27	Jacksonville	10
Seattle	24	Cincinnati	21
San Francisco	28	New England	3
Chicago	25	Tampa Bay	6
Dallas	23	Minnesota	17 (OT)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

3-way in first Greek league

ATHENS (AP) — Polish striker Krzysztof Warzycha scored one goal and Giorgos Donis added another Sunday to give defending champion Panathinaikos Athens a 2-1 victory over crosstown Athinaikos away and a three-way lead in the Greek first division soccer league.

Off Crete and Olympiakos Piraeus both scored victories and share the prime position with Panathinaikos with 9 points each after three games.

Off trounced Larissa 6-3 away and Olympiakos beat newcomer Paniliakos 3-0 at home.

Former Olympic champion dead at 79
MALMO, Sweden (AP) — Erik Nilsson, who won two Olympic soccer medals and a bronze in the 1950 World Cup for Sweden, died this weekend, Swedish news agency TT said Sunday.

He was 79. Nilsson, one of the top defenders in Swedish soccer history, made 57 international appearances between 1938 and 1952. He was a member of the team that captured the 1948 Olympic title in London and won a bronze four years later in Helsinki, Finland, before retiring from the national team.

Two years earlier, he played for Sweden's bronze-medal winning team in Brazil. Nilsson never played club soccer abroad. He spent most of his career with Malmö FF (600-plus games) in southern Sweden.

Nilsson's 1948 Olympic teammate Gunnar Nordahl, the all-time leading scorer for AC Milan, died Friday at age 73 in Italy.

Senegalese beats Hlasek
BORDEAUX (AP) — Yaya Dombia of Senegal became the first pro player to win two tournaments as a qualifier as he beat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Passing Shot tournament Sunday.

The 32-year-old Dombia also took the Lyon tournament in 1988 as a qualifier, having to win three matches to get into the main draw of 32. He entered this year ranked 766th and was 282nd at the beginning of the week. "I might not have the power of these younger guys but maybe more experience," Dombia said. "At 20 you want to break mountains. At 30 you rather try to move them a little."

There have been 25 players who have won tournaments as qualifiers in the pro era but Dombia is the first to repeat. This week he sailed through eight matches without losing a set and beat three seeded players along the way — No. 5 David Prinosil of Germany, No. 8 Lionel Roux of France and No. 7 Hlasek. The victory was worth \$54,000 to Dombia more than a quarter of his total career prize money to date of \$195,484. This year he had lost four previous matches in the main draws of tournaments before his success at Bordeaux.

Tanui, McColgan take half marathon
SOUTH SHIELDS, England (AP) — Moses Tanui and Liz McColgan took the Bupa half marathon Sunday, showing the form that has established the two as the best in the world at the 13.1-mile (21.1-kilometre) distance.

The 30-year-old Kenyan, who holds the world best at the distance of 59 minutes 47 seconds, won in a time of 1 hour 36 seconds, defeating three-time Bupa winner and world half marathon champion Benson Masaya of Kenya. Masaya finished second in 1:01:59. The former 10,000-metre world champion, Tanui moved away from Masaya at the 5-mile (8-kilometre) mark when Masaya was unable to give him across the rolling course. Tanui, after a so-so season, is pointing toward the marathon in next year's olympics in Atlanta.

McColgan, in the midst of a comeback after being plagued by injuries for several years, pulled away from Ethiopia's Fatuma Roba in the last mile to win in 1:11:42. McColgan and Roba ran stride for stride from the mid-point of the race after dropping Portugal's Manuela Machado, the world marathon champion who finished third. McColgan holds the world best for the half marathon at 1:07:11.

Italy's Cadalora beats Doohan
RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Italy's Luca Cadalora drove a mistake-free race and beat season points leader Michael Doohan by 4 1/2 seconds Sunday, claiming the 500cc division of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Doohan, who complained about the refurbished 5.088-kilometre (3.16-mile) Nelson Piquet raceway saying rain had made it dangerous, on Sunday only blamed himself. "Our own team was our worst enemy," Doohan said. "And (Cadalora's) Yamaha team did a great job of getting their motorcycle ready. I tried to win on a Cadalora error, but he simply didn't make one."

Doohan sat out Friday's qualifying to protest the conditions at the track, which had not been host to any kind of competition in years and was making its debut following repairs. Two races remain in the 13-event season. In the 250cc division, Italian, Dorian Rombini won on his Honda, beating countryman Max Biaggi and his Aprilia by 1 1/2 seconds. Late, Masaki Tokudome of Japan beat Italian Gianluigi Scalvini by .204 of a second to win the 125cc division.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HUSSEIN
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PICTURE-PERFECT DEFENSE

Both vulnerable, North deals.
NOR ♠
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
WEST
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
EAST
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
SOUTH
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
WEST
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
EAST
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠
SOUTH
A ♠
Q ♠
K ♠

The bidding:
NOR 1 ♠
E 1 ♠
S 2 ♠
W 2 ♠

Opening lead: Five of ♠
Defense is the most difficult aspect of bridge to master. When two defenders are in tune, the game becomes a thing of beauty.

With no intention of doubling a low-level heart contract, South opted for an invitational jump to two as a trump rather a redouble. Since North had the minimum the law allows for an opening bid, that brought the auction to an abrupt conclusion.

Had East thoughtlessly switched to a low spade, declarer would have scraped home since the defenders could not get more than one spade, two hearts and a trick in each minor. But East realized that no card other than the queen of spades could justify partner's signal so, to make sure of forcing an entry to partner's hand, East shifted to the king of spades!

This play, known in the trade as the Deschamps Coup after the French whist star who first found it, ruined declarer. Winning the ace would give West the entry to cash two more heart tricks and result in a two-trick set. Holding up would be no better — East would simply continue with a spade to force out the ace, and six tricks would again be all that declarer could gather before surrendering the lead.

<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Isabelle Adjani in La Reine Margot</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Bruce Willis in Die Hard III</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Yusra (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD "2" Striking Distance Shows: 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 10:45</p>	<p>AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274-618275</p> <p>MUSA HLAJIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqieh *****</p>	<p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571</p> <p>performances will seize starting of today until further notice</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p>
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Graf lawyers offer \$10m bail

BONN (AFP) — Lawyers for Peter Graf, the father of top tennis star Steffi, are willing to post bail of up to \$10.2 million to secure his release from jail while tax fraud charges against him are heard.

"That sum would reduce fears that he would flee from justice," Peter Slania, one of the lawyers, told national television station ARD late on Saturday.

"The money would also serve as a deposit for tax authorities."

Steffi Graf visited her father on Friday for the first time since he was jailed at Mannheim prison on Aug. 2, Slania added. Mannheim court will decide Monday whether to release Graf from custody.



Steffi Graf

following a request from defence lawyers. Prosecutors oppose the request. Graf, 27, was responsible

for managing his daughter's business affairs and prosecutors allege tax evasion on revenue of \$121 million.

Mutola boosts morale at All Africa Games

HARARE (Agencies) — Mozambican running ace Maria Mutola gave the All Africa Games a much-needed morale boost Sunday by being the first top name to compete in the track events.

Mutola glided home with the best time in the women's 800 metre heats in 2:05.32, ten seconds behind her personal best. The finals are scheduled Monday.

"I'm proud to run here. It's important for me and my country to win in Africa," she said.

Mutola wasn't listed on the official draw sheet to avoid disappointment if she hadn't made it from a competition in Monaco to Harare in time for her heat.

Top African athletes have stayed away from the sixth Olympic-style All Africa Games. Mutola said many were drawn to lucrative prizes elsewhere.

"Too many follow money, but if you don't have money, you can't live," she said.

Without most of Africa's top stars taking part, Sunday's marathon was an open field, with Zimbabwean Nicholas Nyengera winning to ecstatic applause from the home crowd.

"I've been preparing for this for six months," he said. "It wasn't easy... I had some stomach problems during the race."

Nyengera's winning time was 2:20:08.00, followed seven seconds behind by fellow Zimbabwean Honest Mutsaers. Tanzania's Simon Bisiligitwa took the bronze. Jowaine Parrot of South Africa won the women's

marathon in 2:55:09.00, leaving Emebete Abosa of Ethiopia five minutes behind. "It's good to take gold home," Parrot said.

Rose Cheruiyot of Kenya, who won the women's 5,000-metre finals in 15:37.73, said she and teammates were affected by Harare's altitude above 4,000 feet.

Nigeria broke two African records and a games record in the women's 100 metre with Taiwo Aldefa finishing in 12.98 and teammate Angela Ateide and Ime Akpan coming in at 13.01 and 13.09.

At the Chitungwiza Aquatic Complex south of Harare, South Africa continued with its winning form Sunday.

Four South Africans broke games records in swimming heats, and their greatest threat came from Rania Elwany of Egypt, who dominated the games four years ago in the absence of the South Africans. She earned a gold medal in the 100 metres freestyle on Saturday.

Officials said competition at Zimbabwe's new \$10 million aquatic complex was heightened by the participation for the first time of South Africa, able to compete after all-race elections ended apartheid in their country last year.

A doping scandal had cast a shadow over South Africa 400-strong games contingent Saturday (see separate story).

Long jump bronze medalist Karen Botha, a veteran international competitor, said she had not realised a painkiller prescribed by her personal doctor contained a

banned stimulant.

As the fifth day of competition in 18 medal sports wound up, Egypt led with 16 gold medals, to South Africa's 15 and Nigeria's 13.

South Africa had 20 silver medals to 11 won by Egypt and 8 by Nigeria. Hosts Zimbabwe managed four gold, two silver and seven bronze.

'Egyptian boxers apologise to S. Africa'

The Egyptian boxing team at the All Africa Games has apologised for a report in an Egyptian newspaper saying some South African boxers had the AIDS virus, a spokesman for the South African squad said on Sunday.

He said the written apology was issued after an Egyptian newspaper last week reprinted a report printed in July that 33 South African professional boxers had been banned from the sport after testing positive for the AIDS virus.

The article was reprinted at the start of boxing events at the games in Zimbabwe.

Egypt, Zimbabwe reach soccer semi-final

Egypt and Zimbabwe qualified for Thursday's football semi-finals with wins in their final group matches at the All Africa Games.

Zimbabwe staged an incredible fightback to win 2-1 against 10-man Congo, and an Hazem Emam goal gave Egypt a 1-0 win over Zambia to top Group B.

South Africa's Botha suspended after dope test

HARARE (R) — South African athlete Karen Botha, wife of former Springbok Rugby captain Naas Botha, was barred on Sunday from the All Africa Games and suspended for three months after testing positive for a banned substance.

"Karen Botha is automatically suspended. She will play no more role in these championships," African Amateur Athletics Confederation (AAAC) President Lamine Diack said.

Botha was bronze medalist in the long jump and competed in the heats of the 4x100 metres relay in which South Africa went on to take the silver in the final without her.

"She will return the long jump medal to us. If she played any role in the sprint relay, it will also be returned to us so that the rightful winners can take it," Diack added.

He said he had received a full medical report and the AAAC was now waiting for presentations from the South African delegation.

"The 'A' sample is controlled. Once the 'B' sample confirms results of the 'A', then the rest is followed according to laid-down procedure," Diack said.

"In Botha's case, both samples tested positive and the regulations are very clear on this."

Botha told a news conference on Saturday she had

unknowingly taken the banned substance in back pain medicine prescribed by a doctor.

South African team doctor Ismail Jakoe said on Saturday Botha had tested positive for the banned substance dextropropoxyphen.

"We are absolutely sure Karen took these pills unwittingly," Jakoe told reporters.

South African head of delegation Muleki George said it would be unfair to strip the women's 4x100 relay team of their silver medals because of the positive test.

Botha took part in the heats but withdrew from the final on Saturday after it appeared she might be barred from the games.

"If you watched our relay team in the final, then you would have noticed that the team performed splendidly and ought to keep the medal," George said.

He said some countries taking part in the games had a grudge against South Africa, which is participating for the first time, because it challenged their traditional dominance of sport on the continent.

"There is an element of jealousy in all this. The appearance of South Africa is seen as a real threat to everyone else and they want to keep us away," George said. "There have been intonances against us by some countries."

Libya take novel approach to World Military Games

ROME (R) — Maybe something was lost in the translation, but Libya's reading of the rules at the inaugural World Military Games was certainly different.

The motto of the 10-day event, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two and bringing together 84 nations and 5,000 athletes, was "friendship Through Sport."

The Libyans attending the games, which closed on Friday with a military parade in Rome, were friendly enough.

They just had problems in obeying orders. "Any political or religious action during the games, in particular the dissemination of propaganda documents, pictures, brochures, reviews etc... is strictly forbidden," the regulations state under "forbidden actions."

Libya, subject to a United Nations embargo imposed after the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, turned out for a soccer match against hosts Italy with "non embargo" emblazoned across their shirts.

The Libyan athletes followed this up by wearing trackuits with the same words around a logo showing a clenched fist reaching out with a U.S. warplane in its grip.

After an unofficial verbal warning, the Libyan delegation eventually packed their bags and went home.

The U.S. delegation, which included numerous athletes hoping to be among the stars of next year's Atlanta Summer Olympics, maintained a military stiff upper lip officially.

But Italian newspapers reported a scuffle between an American and a Libyan in the central Piazza Di Spagna, with the Libyan being unceremoniously dumped in a fountain.

The organisers, preferring to concentrate on military matters such as the naval pentathlon — obstacle race, lifesaving, seamanship, utility swimming, amphibious cross country race and sailing — were not amused.

"This is sport, not politics," said general Gaetano Casale, head of the organising committee, in an interview.

"It was a surprise for us when they turned up with those shirts. We absolutely could not allow it and the technical committee met and decided to tell the team to get rid of the shirts or go home. They decided to return home."

The strong political tone to the games, being staged in a country whose air bases are the mainstay of NATO's air strikes on Bosnia, continued when an Iranian pistol-shooting major decided to go in the opposite direction.

He finished his event and vanished, resurfacing through an Iranian opposition group to seek political asylum.

Casale said the games were nonetheless a triumph. "I think these first games have been an enormous success," he said. "Not just because some great athletes have competed, as the figures prove, but because organising all this in just 10 months shows how efficient we have been."

Military championships have been held previously for individual sports but this was the first time all have been held at the same time and organised by one host national. Organisers hope to make them four-yearly from now on.

The medal disciplines spanned the purely military — parachuting and naval pentathlon — with its intriguing discipline of target shooting in a pond — to a range of Olympic track and field events, swimming, cycling and soccer.

Italy, fielding a team of mostly Serie A professionals with several internationals, had expected to win the soccer championship with ease but they came unstuck in spectacular fashion against outsiders Cyprus.



Thomas Muster

Muster slams U.S. dominance

BUCHAREST (R) — Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster and runner-up at the Romanian Open on Sunday, accused U.S. tennis authorities of trying to switch the focus of world tennis to North America from Europe.

"You could win all the European tournaments but you cannot become number one in world tennis," Muster told a news conference after defeating Schaller 6-3, 6-4 in

Sunday's final. "To be number one is the private property of the Americans," Muster said.

The world number three blamed European tournament directors for failing to bring the big name Americans to play in Europe.

"The European tennis directors are not able to convince the American tennis players to play in Europe," Muster said. "They are not

strong enough for it."

He said keeping the centre of tennis interest in Europe had to be a common goal of European tennis.

"Tennis must live where it was born," he said.

Schaller supported Muster's sentiments. "We have in Europe very good tennis tournaments but, unfortunately, the promotion and the marketing are not on the same high level," he said.

Austrian Airlines introduces Traffic System 2000

Austrian Airlines, in cooperation with their general sales agent, Petra Travel & Tourism, held a dinner party on Sunday, 17 Sept. 1995, at Dead Sea Hotel.

Mr. Abu Alsaoud (Country Manager for Jordan & Iraq) held a speech in which he introduced the new programme of Austrian Airlines to the Middle East (Traffic System 2000). The salient feature of Travel System 2000 is the increase in hubs at Vienna Airport from two to four per day. Passengers beginning or ending their journeys at Vienna Schwechat will benefit from new, more convenient flight times. Practically no departures will be scheduled before seven in the morning and no arrivals after ten at night.

Where services to the Middle East are concerned, day-time flights will dovetail ideally with connections in Vienna. The bulk of these services will depart in the morning, tying in with the morning flights from Western Europe. This means an even wider range of connecting services via Vienna.

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Damascus is said ready to redeploy forces in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syria is willing to move its 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said in a speech designed to allay Christian fears of domination by Damascus.

"On the security level, Syria is willing more than Lebanon to redeploy its troops (in Lebanon), but Syria still represents a Lebanese security need in light of the continued Israeli attempts to threaten Lebanon and disturb its general order," the pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim speaker said in a speech on Sunday.

Mr. Berri spoke in mainly Christian Jbeil district, north of Beirut, where most people, along with some co-religionists in other areas, boycotted parliamentary polls in 1992, saying they refused to vote while Syrian soldiers remained in Lebanon.

They said the polls tightened Syria's hold by producing a pro-Syrian parliament.

Mr. Berri's remarks followed statements by Lebanon's exiled Christian opposition leaders who last week attacked what they said was Syria's rule of their country. They dismissed the current Lebanese leadership as puppets controlled by Syria.

Lebanon has emerged from 15 years of civil war with neighbouring Syria playing the role of power-broker in the country's affairs. Syria's 35,000 soldiers are deployed across two-thirds of Lebanese territory, while Syria's traditional foe, Israel, occupies a narrow southern anti-guerrilla border zone.

Under the terms of the 1989 Taif peace accord which silenced Lebanon's civil war

guns, a Syrian troop redeployment to the Bekaa Valley should have taken place by September 1992. Lebanese officials have repeatedly said they still needed Syrian help in shoring up a fragile internal peace.

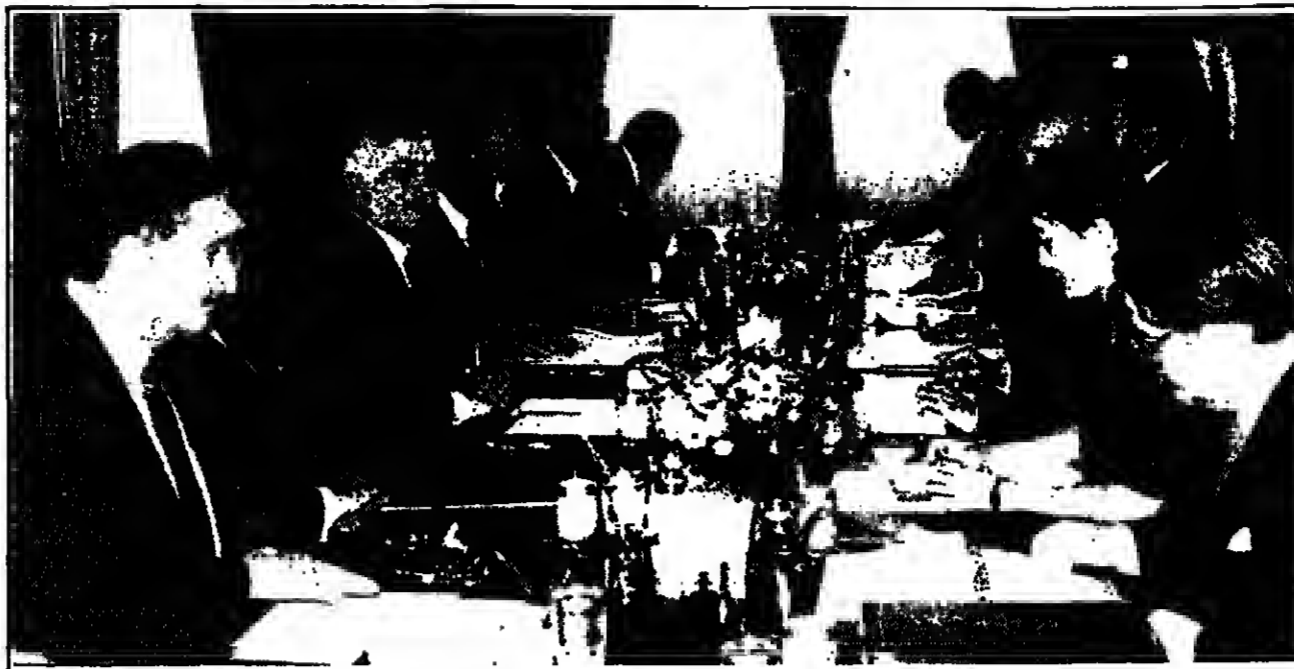
Mr. Berri, seeking to reassure Lebanese Christians that their country had not been absorbed by Syria, said all agreements signed between Beirut and Damascus showed Syria's concern over its smaller neighbour "to the point that some Syrian ministers have complained that the pact gave Lebanon more than Syria."

Touching on talks earlier this month in Damascus at which he was reconciled with his rival, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, Mr. Berri said the essence of the talks was that the two would resort to the law and Lebanese institutions to settle their disputes.

"There was nothing else," Mr. Berri added, apparently denying earlier reports that the two had agreed in Damascus on extending the term of pro-Syrian Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Mr. Berri said parliament would not stay one day after its term expires next year — an assurance to some Christians who fear an extension of Mr. Hrawi's term which expires in November would be followed by a similar extension of the current parliament.

He said Syrian officials were annoyed by the continuous squabbling of Lebanon's top officials who turn to Damascus to solve their disputes. He said Syria did not want to play the role of arbiter in purely internal Lebanese problems.



JAPAN-JORDAN TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday chair talks between Jordan and Japan on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and other issues (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Palestinians seek control over digs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinians are demanding a freeze on all archaeological excavations in the West Bank, including the Qumran area, where four newly discovered caves may hold more Dead Sea scrolls, officials said.

But despite emerging plans to establish Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, Israeli archaeologists said they would press ahead with a dig scheduled to begin there in coming months.

The dispute is among remaining issues on the negotiating table in Taba, Egypt, where Israeli and Palestinian leaders were meeting Sunday in a last-ditch effort to reach a West Bank deal by Sept. 21.

"We ask that all archaeological activity in the West Bank be stopped," said Hamdan Taha, who headed the Palestinian negotiators on the issue. "There is no reason to start excavations in land that will be turned over to us."

Amir Drori, head of the Israel antiquities authority, told the Associated Press the sides were negotiating on who will control archaeological sites, but refused to reveal the Israeli position.

The question was brought to the fore by a surprise August announcement by two Israeli archaeologists that they had found previously unknown manmade caves in Qumran.

The area, a possible tourist attraction on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, has already been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s.

The scrolls, written between 150 B.C. and A.D. 50, are among the most important archaeological finds of the century. They shed light on the origins of Christianity and the history of Judaism, and include the earliest known texts of the Old Testament.

Hanan Eshel, the Israeli archaeologist who discovered the new caves, said there was a good chance more scrolls or other artifacts lay in them since there were no signs they had been robbed. He said the excavation would take about three weeks.

The West Bank deal would constitute the second stage of the September 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, after Gaza and Jericho became autonomous 16 months ago.

Although the plan would at first allow for self-rule only in enclaves around the major Palestinian cities, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has already been given control over most civilian areas of life in the entire West Bank.

Mr. Taha, who heads the new Jericho-based Palestinian Department of Archaeology, said the Palestinians were conse-

quently demanding territorial control also over areas of archaeological excavations, like Qumran.

Mr. Taha maintained the planned Israeli dig would amount to "last minute plundering." He added excavations could proceed even under Palestinian jurisdiction.

Yitzhak Magen, Israel's chief archaeologist in the West Bank, said the Palestinians' demands "have no effect on our work" and excavations would take place as planned by year's end.

Robert Eisenman, head of the religion department at California State University in Long Beach, said he would welcome Palestinian control over the sites.

Mr. Eisenman led a 1992 radar survey of the Qumran area and located at least two underground cavities he said might contain scrolls but was denied permission to probe them by Israel.

Iraqi Kurds seek to flush out PKK rebels

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Kurds have launched a huge operation to flush out Turkish Kurd separatists in northern Iraq in clashes which have left about 73 dead, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said in a statement Monday. The "KDP forces launched a major mopping up military operation since Sep. 15 against hideouts" of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the area where Iraq borders Turkey and Syria, the group said in the statement sent to Ankara. The forces had "dislodged PKK armed groups in the region and controlled four makeshift bases in Merga, Perav, Kherba Nori and Zafaran" as well as "ammunition and food depots."

The clashes erupted on Friday with a PKK attack on a KDP base at a television relay station southwest of the border town of Zakho. KDP fighters "encircled and destroyed" the PKK attackers who suffered 40 dead and nearly 20 wounded, the statement said. Earlier last week the PKK lost 29 fighters and 56 were wounded in clashes with the KDP north of Atrush refugees camp. On Saturday the PKK attacked a KDP base near Begolke near Kani Masi, and four KDP men were killed and two wounded, the statement added. Fighting between the two groups broke out on Aug. 25 when the PKK launched attacks on the KDP to wreck a U.S. and Turkish-backed truce reached with its Iraqi Kurd rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

COLUMN

Prototype Chinese watch put on auction block

SHANGHAI (AFP) — The first Chinese-made wrist watch, made 40 years ago in Shanghai, will be put on sale at an auction here next Sunday, a newspaper reported Monday. The watch was constructed with umbrella spokes, bicycle wire, sewing needles and brass pieces from a harmonica, the Shanghai Youth Daily reported. The Shanghai No. 2 Light Industry Administrative Bureau gathered 58 watch repairers and clock makers in June 1955 to make the first Chinese-made watch. Within three months, they had a domestic model on the market, which was then dominated by imports. The Shanghai International Commodities Auction Centre, which is holding the auction, declined to disclose the opening bid on the watch, but said the proceeds would be donated to charity.

British Dalmatian Club votes no puppies for Disney

LONDON (AFP) — The 200 members of Britain's Dalmatian Club have come out against helping Disney find puppies for a remake of the successful film 101 Dalmatians, the Times reported Monday. After four hours of sometimes heated discussion Sunday, club members meeting in Warwick, central England voted, 106 to 71 against cooperating with the film company. However the decision was not regarded as final because opponents failed to secure a two-thirds majority. Filming has already begun at Shepperton Studios in London with Glenn Close in the role of Cruella De Vil, the Times said. Disney placed an advertisement for Dalmatian puppies in the British press Tuesday and took pains to reassure breeders concerned about how the pups would be treated. The advertisement went into great detail about the comforts which Disney intends to provide for its animal cast. But the company has failed to silence its critics and Mary Greening, owner of one of Britain's biggest breeding kennels, said it was feared the remake would cause a repetition of what happened 30 years ago when the cartoon was first screened. The film caused a huge demand for Dalmatian puppies, many of which were abandoned once they had grown to full size, she said.

Chinese hot pot — dangerous delicacy

BEIJING (R) — It's a dangerous delicacy. About 30 people were injured when an explosion ripped through a spicy hot pot restaurant in Chengdu, capital of China's southwestern Sichuan province, on August 29 due to a gas leak, the Guangming Daily said Monday. More than 100 people have been injured in explosions at over 20 Chinese hot pot restaurants this year, with direct economic losses estimated at tens of millions of yuan (millions of U.S. dollars), the newspaper said. The Chengdu city government has decided to crack down on and shut hot pot restaurants violating safety regulations, it said. Spicy hot pot restaurants are popular in Sichuan, where residents like peppery food, especially in winter.

Chinese antique smugglers get stiff penalties

BEIJING (AFP) — Some 55 people in the central Chinese province of Shanxi have been convicted of stealing cultural relics, with five of them sentenced to death, the Farmers' Daily said Monday. The mass convictions coincided with a top-level conference last week in the provincial capital, Xian, to discuss measures aimed at countering the growing black market in stolen antiquities.

Killing of presidential hopeful is a bad omen for Algerian elections

ALGIERS (AFP) — The slaying on Sunday of a presidential candidate by Muslim fundamentalists two months before scheduled elections serves as a bloody reminder of Algeria's deep civil unrest.

It is also a violent challenge to President Liamine Zeroul, who had formally called the day before for the elections to take place.

Several bombs have exploded in different part of Algeria in the last few days, though none have caused injury.

Ahmed Majid Benhadid, 48, was shot on Sunday morning by three men while leaving his home in Boudouaou, 30 kilometres east of the Algerian capital Algiers.

A minor candidate who headed an association promoting sports and cultural activities, Benhadid did not enjoy any special protection as a candidate.

Indeed, when he declared his candidacy local police asked him to leave the city, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, according to the Tribune, an independent daily. "No one will touch me. They knew me. I am a son of the people," Benhadid said at the time.

His killers, according to witnesses, were three

"youngsters" who fled after firing the fatal shots.

Benhadid's murder is seen here as a bloody omen that the run-up to the first-round elections, scheduled for Nov. 16, are likely to be marred by the kind of violence that has already claimed at least 30,000 lives since 1992.

The independent daily Le Matin described the slaying of Benhadid as "a kind of challenge" to the government, while the daily El Watan called it "a first bloody blow" that is "at the same time a message addressed to the candidates and the Algerian people."

The slaying also highlights the inability of the government, despite reassurances, to protect candidates against highly mobile bands of armed commandos that move easily within the poor suburbs where support for Muslim fundamentalists is strongest.

Remaining political candidates are now sharply aware that they are potential targets for terrorist attack, like scores of government-employed journalists and functionaries killed in the last three years.

The campaign runs the risk of unfolding in a state of siege, punctuated by car-bombs and attempted assassinations.

Iran says it opposes foreign intervention in Afghanistan

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran has urged Afghanistan's neighbours not to interfere in the country's internal struggle, a reference to allegations that Pakistan was supporting the Islamic Taliban movement.

"We hope that all the neighbours... Iran, Pakistan and those situated far away from Afghanistan will keep in mind the past condition of the country and realise that the Afghans should be left alone to tackle their own affairs without any input from outside," Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati was speaking in an interview published on Monday in the English-language Iran News newspaper.

The Afghan government in Kabul earlier this month said it had proof of Pakistani support for Taliban fighters trying to topple Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Both Pakistan and the Taliban movement denied the charge.

"Pakistan assured the Islamic Republic (of Iran) several times that it is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," Mr. Velayati said. "The government in Kabul refutes what Pakistan says."

Iran closed its border with Afghanistan and stepped up security there after the Taliban this month captured areas near the border from forces supporting Mr. Rabbani.

Tehtan has been suspicious of the Taliban student militia which Iranian newspapers have accused of being organised by Pakistan.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmad Alai has been sent to Rome and may meet there with ex-Afghan King Zahir Shah following dramatic changes in the military balance in Afghanistan, officials in Islamabad said Monday.

Mr. Ali flew to the Italian capital Sunday from Tehran after talks with Iranian leaders on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Kuwaiti woman jailed for murdering maid

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A criminal court here sentenced a Kuwait woman to ten years in jail for battering her housemaid to death with her shoe, the Kuwait Times daily said Monday.

The prosecution accused the employer of murdering her Sri Lankan housemaid by hitting her on the face, head and body with a shoe that had a pointed iron heel, the newspaper added.

The maid died from head injuries sustained in the attack on April 16, 1994.

The Kuwaiti woman told the court the maid had refused to clean the house when asked. She admitted attacking the maid first with a sharp-edged iron bar until she fell to the floor and then with the shoe.

"She was screaming and trying to escape from me... I didn't mean to kill her," the woman told the prosecution. "I also hit her with a wooden stick two or three days before her death," she confessed.

The Kuwaiti's husband told the prosecution that his wife called him at work and explained what had happened. He then reported it to police.

He said there had been a number of disagreements between his wife and the maid who did not speak Arabic and did not understand

orders given to her.

The defence lawyer asked the court to clear the woman of murder or to reduce the punishment as she was a mother of four children, the eldest only four years old. He also sought psychiatric tests for her.

But the court heard that the woman did not suffer from any mental illness and was responsible for all her statements and actions.

The court decided there was no reason to show the woman mercy because of the brutality of her acts. She inflicted injuries to nearly every part of the maid's body and stopped battering her only after she had died.

The verdict is to be referred to Kuwait's appeals court.

The Sri Lankan embassy has identified the victim as P. Pushpalatha, 23. She was married with two children living in Sri Lanka and had been working in Kuwait for about five months at the time of her death in April 1994.

Hundreds of domestic helpers, mostly from the Philippines and Sri Lanka, have sought refuge at their embassies in Kuwait. Most of them complain of overwork, non-payment of salaries — which rarely exceed \$130 a month — beatings and sexual abuse.

Egyptian professionals face military court

CAIRO (R) — Muslim Brotherhood member Essam Al Eryan looked odd without his doctor's white coat. His colleagues — lawyers, engineers, teachers and former members of parliaments — had traded in business suits for prison garb.

As leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, their crime is daring to translate their Islamic faith into political action for the November parliamentary elections, diplomats and analysts say.

Until recently, the Islamist laymen were outspoken, freely receiving journalists at their offices to explain their vision of an Islamic state. But on Sunday they were dragged to court in police vans and locked in iron cages like any other criminals.

The Egyptian government has charged them with reorganising the Brotherhood, recruiting members, conspiring against the government and violating the constitution.

But why did the govern-

ment suddenly become so sensitive about Muslim Brotherhood activities which it had tolerated for years? Their statements have appeared in government newspapers and leading Brothers have even met government officials.

The answer, the diplomats and analysts say, is simply the elections and forecasts that the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist organisation would do better than the government thinks comfortable. The government denies it.

The Brotherhood has had a toehold in local government since elections in 1992 and is still planning to put up 94 candidates for the 444 parliamentary seats at stake in November.

Analysts said the government, frightened of the success of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algerian elections in 1991, would never let the Brotherhood "get its foot in the political door."

"What we are seeing is a careful, surgical, and long-term campaign to weaken if not destroy the Brotherhood's political capability if not their social fabric," one diplomat said.

"The government will do whatever it takes to keep the Brotherhood contained, so putting their key figures out of commission obviously weakens their political ability," he said.

The Brotherhood, which has been officially banned in Egypt since 1954, cannot field candidates for elections under its own banner but its members can stand as independents or under the umbrella of recognised opposition parties.

Egypt officially has a multi-party system but the ruling National Democratic Party, latest incarnation of the party that has governed since 1952, always win an overwhelming majority.

The government began its slow but steady drive against

the Brotherhood back in January. First, police rounded up 20 leaders and a few months before the elections, they picked up 150 more.

Last month President Hosni Mubarak, accusing the Brotherhood of funding armed militants seeking to overthrow him and install a strict Islamic state, issued a decree referring the 49 to a military court, equating them with violent militants of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

Their charges do not include any offences usually referred to military courts, such as murder, using arms and possessing explosives. Military trials tend to be quick and more severe than those in civilian courts. Verdicts cannot be appealed.

The 49 standing trial appear to be carefully selected. At least seven are former members of parliament and most are eligible and powerful contenders to win seats in the poll.

Diplomats say the govern-

ment is convinced the real threat to its power comes from the Brotherhood rather than from armed militants it has tamed through security measures.

The Brotherhood has much deeper roots in Egyptian society and its conservative vision of Islam is spreading steadily and confidently, changing the character of Egyptian society.

The Brotherhood have the money and the influence. Their members are professionals. They are in the centre of the social stratum. They are legitimate, well-respected, accepted and liked in society," said one analyst.

The Brotherhood alarmed the government after the Cairo earthquake of 1992 with the speed with which it helped the victims. It also won control of the associations of lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers, leading to a new law which made it much harder for them to win ag-